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May Record Highlights*

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WELCOME JUNE 2022

Tutankhamun is one of the many rulers we explore in this month's Essential Guide to Egypt's Mighty Pharaohs

From the incredible discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb in 1922, to the monumental pyramids at Giza, our appetite for ancient Egypt and the men and women who ruled its mighty empire shows no sign of abating. This month, with the help of Professor Joyce Tyldesley, **we examine the dynasties that ruled Egypt for more than 3,000 years, and explore the power of the pharaohs**. We also meet Egypt's 'female kings', share some lesser-known facts about Tutankhamun, and discover how pharaohs prepared for life after death. Turn to page 28 to get started.

Staying with a royal theme, to mark Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee, **we've pulled together an A–Z of her life and reign** – from her work with the Auxiliary Territorial Service during World War II, to the numerous royal tours she has conducted over the past 70 years. Find out more on page 57.

Elsewhere, we look at **eight examples of women's fight for equality** – from the right to enjoy a quiet pint, to continuing paid work after marriage (*page 64*), and question whether England's republic might have survived **had Oliver Cromwell's son not become Lord Protector** after his father's death (*page 70*).

Also this month, we investigate the dramatic event that saw **Shakespeare's beloved Globe theatre go up in flames in 1613** (*page 16*) and **analyse a work of art from Depression-era America** that has become one of the most parodied paintings of all time (*page 62*). Plus, we examine a 17th-century rebellion that **could have ousted King James II and VII from the throne** (*page 21*).

See you next month!

Charlotte Hodgman
Editor

THIS MONTH'S BIG NUMBERS

5,000
The estimated number of hats worn by Queen Elizabeth II over the course of her 70-year reign

130
The number of walking sticks found in the tomb of ancient Egypt's 'boy king', Tutankhamun

1973
The year the bar on married women working in the British Foreign Service was finally lifted

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USPS Identification Statement
BBC History Revealed (ISSN 2632-6930) (USPS 022-450) June 2022 is published 13 times a year (monthly, with a Christmas issue in December) by Immediate Media Company London Limited, Vineyard House, 44 Brook Green, Hammersmith, London, W6 7BT, UK. Distributed in the US by NPS Media Group, 2 Enterprise Drive, Suite 420, Shelton, CT 06484. Periodicals postage paid at Shelton, CT and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to *BBC History Revealed*, PO Box 401, Williamsport, PA 17703, USA

ON THE COVER (L–R): THE SPHINX IN FRONT OF ONE OF THE PYRAMIDS AT GIZA; PHARAOH DJOSER; NEFERTITI; HOWARD CARTER AND A MEMBER OF HIS TEAM EXAMINE ONE OF TUTANKHAMUN'S COFFINS; CLEOPATRA; TUTANKHAMUN'S DEATH MASK – GETTY X6, ALAMY X1, BRIDGEMAN X1 / ON THIS PAGE: GETTY X1, JENI NOTT X1

CONTENTS JUNE 2022

YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO

EGYPT'S MIGHTY PHARAOHS

30 Timeline of the pharaonic age
We chart the many dynasties that ruled Egypt between c3100 BC and 30 BC

32 Everything you wanted to know about Egyptian pharaohs
Professor Joyce Tyldesley answers key questions about Egypt's ancient kings

36 Egypt's most powerful women
Meet our selection of extraordinary female rulers

38 Life as a pharaoh
How, and where, did Egyptian pharaohs spend their days?

42 Six things you (probably) didn't know about Tutankhamun
We share some lesser-known facts about the 'boy king'

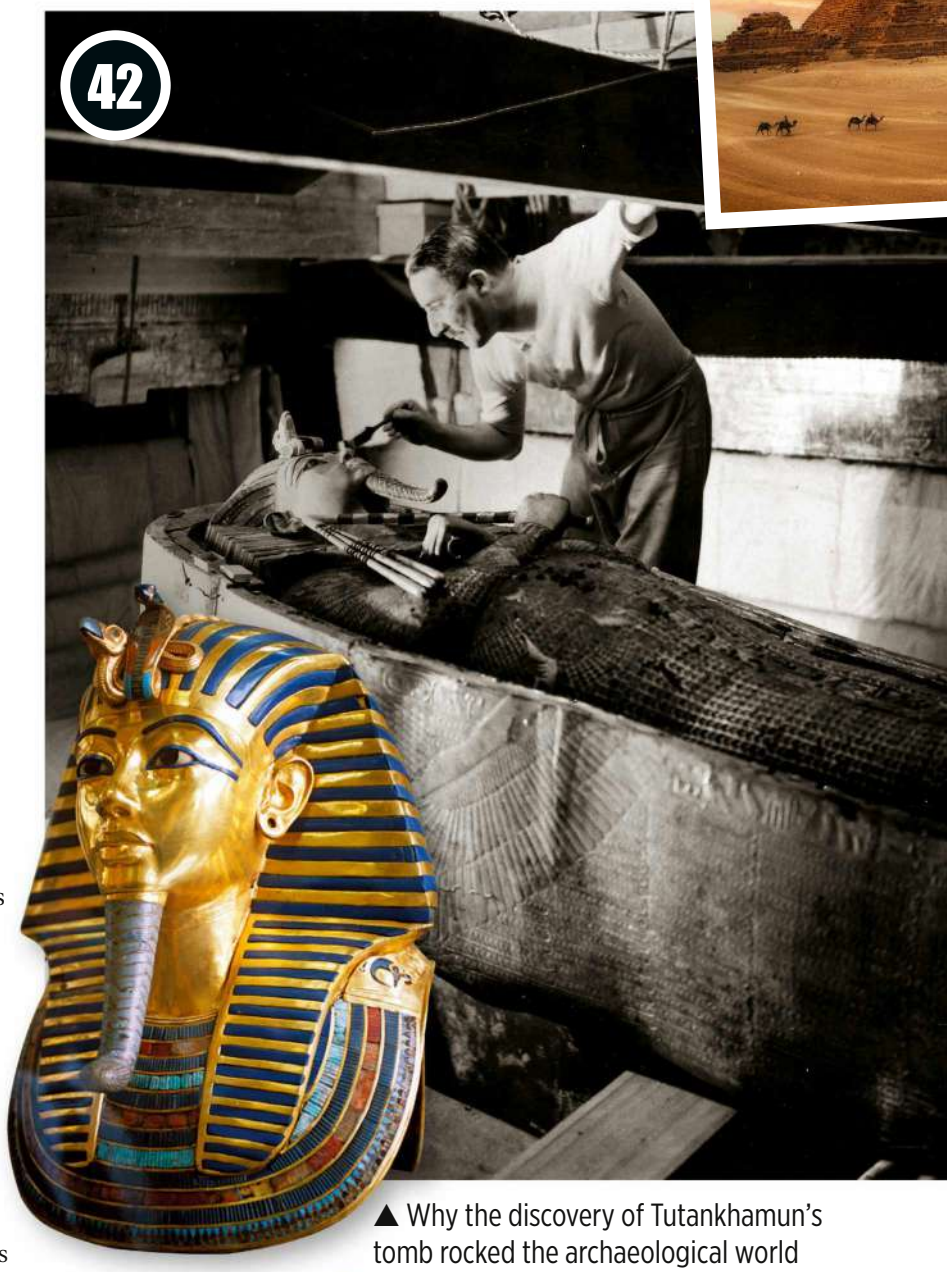
46 Inside Tutankhamun's tomb
Explore one of history's greatest archaeological discoveries

48 Ensuring a legacy
The temples and tombs that tell Egypt's story

50 The men who ruled Egypt
Who was the mightiest pharaoh of them all? You decide

52 The quest for immortality
The path to the afterlife was fraught with danger

55 Get hooked
Take the topic further with our pick of TV, radio and podcasts



▲ Why the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb rocked the archaeological world

FEATURES

57 An A–Z of Queen Elizabeth II
A whistlestop tour of Her Majesty's life and reign

62 Great Paintings... American Gothic
We explore the enduring mystery behind one of the world's most parodied works of art

64 You're barred!
From pints to property: eight unusual bans on the 'fairer sex'

70 What if... Oliver Cromwell's son had never been Lord Protector?

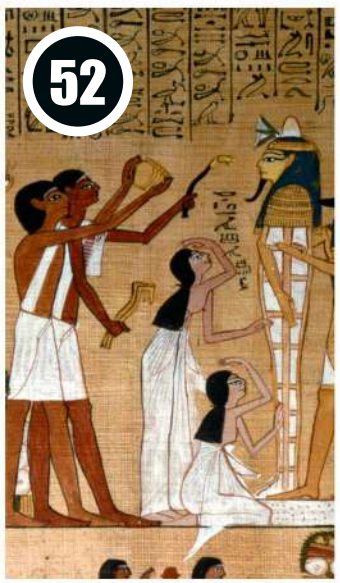
▲ An alphabetical overview of Elizabeth II's life and reign

▲ The story of Grant Wood's Depression-era masterpiece

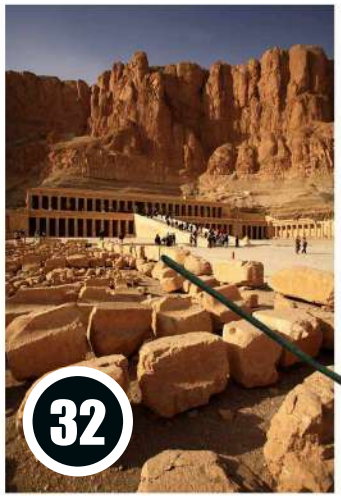
GETTY IMAGES X10, ALAMY X1, AMERICAN GOTHIC, 1930, FRIENDS OF AMERICAN ART COLLECTION © GRANT WOOD X1

48 ◀ Discover why bigger was better when it came to leaving an architectural legacy

36 ▲ Meet ancient Egypt's most powerful women



52 ▲ Find out how pharaohs prepared for the afterlife



32 ▲ The big questions about Egypt's pharaohs

38 ▲ What was daily life like for Egypt's esteemed rulers?

64 ▲ Eight unusual bans that highlight women's long struggle for equality

70 ▲ Should Oliver Cromwell have chosen a di erent successor to rule England?

EVERY MONTH

6 Snapshots
A 10-year-old chess superstar and more

12 What We've Learned This Month
Roman beer production, Darwin's missing notebooks, and more

14 My Life in History
Michael Brown, historic gardener

16 This Month in... 1613
London's Globe theatre burns to the ground

19 Paranormal Cold Case
Danny Robins investigates a haunted house in East Sussex with celebrity links

21 In a Nutshell
The Monmouth Rebellion of 1685

24 Spotlight on... Charles Dickens

73 Ask the Experts
Why do we say 'goodbye'? This, and other historical questions answered

79 TV, Film & Radio
This month's history entertainment

82 What's On
Exhibitions and events in the world of history

84 Books & Podcasts
The latest historical releases and podcasts

86 Historical Fiction
Alison Weir shares an extract from her new novel about Elizabeth of York

87 Prize Crossword

88 Letters

89 Next Issue

90 Photo Finish

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THIS CAR
RESERVED EXCLUSIVELY
FOR WOMEN

SNAPSHOTS

1909 SEATS FOR WOMEN

In 1909, New York City transport officials thought that giving female subway riders the option to travel on women-only carriages would help ensure they felt safe on board. Even though women in New York state did not win the right to vote until 1917, the carriages – located at the rear of the train – came to be dubbed 'suffragette cars' due to their association with the campaign for women's suffrage. It wasn't long, however, before officials realised that many women didn't want to be separated from their male companions, and the short-lived idea was scrapped altogether – with many female passengers claiming to feel safer on the subway with men present.

GETTY IMAGES

SNAPSHOTS

1937 LET THEM EAT CAKE

For this group of children visiting Berlin Zoo in April 1937, there was an added surprise in store: a slice of cake to celebrate Adolf Hitler's 48th birthday. It's hard to know exactly what would have gone through their heads as they tucked into the swastika-decorated treat, but the offering would have only reinforced the notion that the German dictator should be adored and celebrated. Regarded as the future of the Third Reich, children were indoctrinated to be loyal to the Führer, with boys required to join the Hitler Youth and girls required to join the League of German Girls. Membership of the Nazi organisations became mandatory for Aryan children in 1936; those who didn't initially join were ridiculed at school, and their parents subject to investigation.

GETTY IMAGES

SNAPSHOTS

1922 A PRECOCIOUS TALENT

A chess superstar at just 10 years old, Polish-born prodigy Samuel Herman Reshevsky is seen facing three adult opponents at the same time – much to the awe of the spectators watching from behind. The three clashes were among the 1,500 games that Reshevsky played during the course of a gruelling American exhibition tour in 1921–22, of which he was victorious in all but eight. Reshevsky settled in the US permanently and went on to win numerous national championships, also earning the title of grandmaster in 1950. But despite his childhood success, Reshevsky never became a full-time adult professional, choosing instead to balance chess with his work as an author and accountant.

ALAMY

THINGS WE LEARNED THIS MONTH...

RECENT HISTORY HEADLINES THAT CAUGHT OUR EYE

MISSING DARWIN NOTEBOOKS LEFT ON LIBRARY FLOOR

A pair of notebooks belonging to Charles Darwin have mysteriously turned up more than 20 years after they were last seen at the University of Cambridge.

The leather-bound volumes, which date from the late 1830s, were anonymously returned in March, when they were found inside a pink gift bag placed on the floor of the main university library. They were last known to have been seen in 2000, when they were removed from the special collections strongroom – where the library's most valuable items are kept – to be photographed, before staff discovered they had gone astray. It was initially believed that the notebooks had been misplaced by accident, until 2020, when the university concluded that they had most likely been stolen and launched a worldwide appeal for their return.

Together, the tomes contain some of the naturalist's most important writings on the theory of evolution, including his famous 'Tree of Life' sketch (*pictured right*).

MAIN: **Darwin's 'Tree of Life' sketch, which he used to explain relationships between species**

LEFT: **University of Cambridge librarian Dr Jessica Gardner with one of the two returned books (*also shown below*)**

STUART ROBERTS/CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY X3; MOLA, LONDON METROPOLITAN ARCHIVES X2; GETTY; TILOK THAKURIA

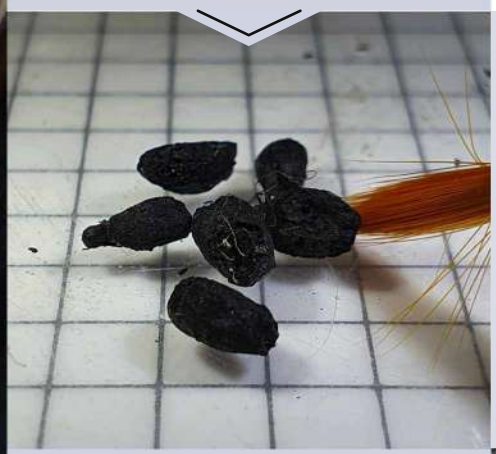
A map of London by John Leake (*left*), showing damage caused by the Great Fire of 1666, and a survey from 1854, revealing the spread of cholera (*right*)

EVIDENCE OF ROMAN BEER PRODUCTION FOUND IN BEDFORDSHIRE

A Roman-era malting oven used during the production of beer has been discovered in Bedfordshire. The structure, unearthed ahead of proposed roadworks on the A428, was found alongside spelt grains (*below*), which would have been dried and used as part of the brewing process. No structures relating to brewing have yet been located, suggesting that the oven's owners may have transported their malt to be used elsewhere. The oven was situated within the grounds of a farmstead, occupied from the Middle Iron Age to the late Roman period.

OLDEST SURVIVING MAP OF LONDON GOES ON DISPLAY

The oldest complete map of the UK capital has gone on display at the London Metropolitan Archives, showing the city as it appeared during the Elizabethan era. The map, *Civitas Londininum*, was created during the 1570s, with only three prints – all from 1633 – known to have survived. Also dubbed the 'woodcut map', it contains details such as the bear-baiting arenas of Southwark and the fields of Highgate, which was then just a small village. The map is among the highlights of a new exhibition, open until 26 October, which also features a survey showing the spread of disease during the Victorian era, and a map highlighting damage caused by the 1666 Great Fire of London.



CLIMATE CHANGE THREATENING THE WORLD'S OLDEST MUMMIES

Abnormal weather patterns are threatening the world's oldest mummies, say experts. According to recent reports, mummified remains buried by the Chinchorro people of northern Chile are being exposed to the elements, causing them to decompose. Although the mummies' final resting place is usually one of the driest areas on Earth, increased rainfall is bringing the bodies to the surface. Work on a new-climate controlled museum in the region is due to start this year, which will aid efforts to preserve the remains – some estimated to be around 7,000 years old.

£8,500

The amount recently paid at auction for a gold ring that may have belonged to a 17th-century sheriff of Nottingham

STONE BURIAL JARS FOUND IN ASSAM

A series of jars that may have been used as part of ancient human burial practices has been uncovered in India. The 65 sandstone containers, discovered across four sites in the northeastern state of Assam, are believed to be at least 2,400 years old, with local reports suggesting that the now-empty artefacts were once filled with cremated remains and beads. Similar jars have previously been found in Indonesia and Laos, with the latter set discovered alongside several different types of burials, including bones placed in ceramic vessels and buried in pits.

Michael carefully tends to the Georgian-style garden at the Cowper and Newton Museum in Olney, Buckinghamshire. As 'The Historic Gardener', Michael regularly gives talks and demonstrations about various aspects of garden history – often in costume

MICHAEL BROWN

ABOVE: **The Medieval Garden at Prebendal Manor in Nassington, Northamptonshire, which Michael designed and created based on his own historical research**

LEFT: **Michael uses a medieval tool while undertaking further work at Prebendal Manor**

Historic gardener

Michael Brown

WHAT LED YOU TO EMBARK ON A CAREER AS A HISTORIC GARDENER?

I had been interested in history since I was a child, so after enjoying a career as a professional gardener (including time as a head gardener), I decided I wanted to learn how people in the past looked after their plants and see whether I could apply those techniques to the present day.

Through my research, I found that many of the modern gardening tools we use today were first adopted by the ancient Romans, and a lot of early gardening practices were copied from books written by the Romans, too. I also learned about the practical uses of the plants themselves, which were not only eaten as food, but used to make medicines, cosmetics and dyes. Even roses, which we now consider to be purely decorative, had many other uses in the past. Some people still use rose flavouring in food or as cosmetics, but our ancestors also used them medicinally.

WHAT SOURCES DID YOU USE DURING YOUR RESEARCH?

When it came to researching the medieval period, I spent a lot of time studying pictures from illuminated manuscripts to see how gardens were set out and the tools that were used to maintain them. I also visited the British Library to research original documents, and I translated a lot of information from a book that had been written in medieval French.

Studying gardening in later periods was much easier, especially when I could find printed material written in English. What surprised me is how little gardening tools and practices changed over the centuries, even if the gardens themselves evolved as new styles came in and out of fashion. It was also interesting to discover how plants from newly discovered parts of the world made a difference to the gardens of the wealthy.

COULD YOU DISCUSS A FAVOURITE GARDEN YOU HAVE WORKED ON?

That's an easy one to answer: the Medieval Garden at Prebendal Manor in Nassington, Northamptonshire, which I designed and created. The planting was completely authentic for the period, and I even crafted my own medieval tools, including a dibber, a scythe, a besom broom and a wooden spade with a metal edge. The smaller areas of grass were cut using the scythe and a pair of sheep shears, while pruning was carried out with a medieval-style pruning knife. Similarly, rather than using string and wire, the vines and roses were all tied in place using willow withies.

A costume-clad Michael showcases some authentic Roman gardening techniques

> "Using a scythe is no more dangerous than using a lawn mower, and is much better from an ecological point of view"

In addition to my work at Prebendal Manor, I have helped to create many other period gardens, reflecting a wide variety of different styles; I cover everything from the ancient Roman period to modern times.

HOW DIFFERENT ARE MODERN GARDENS TO THOSE OF THE PAST?

Unless they look after an allotment, most people don't grow much of their own food. Although they might tend a few pots of herbs, salad crops and tomatoes, modern conveniences mean people don't have to grow everything that they eat or need. I have often looked at the failed crops in my own allotment and realised that if I had been alive in earlier times, I would have been facing starvation over the winter months.

Another thing that has changed is that machinery and technology has replaced humans, so fewer people now work in gardens as a full-time profession. Whereas large estates may have once had a hundred or more gardeners, they now only have four or five. A ride-on mower can quickly do the work that a dozen men with scythes would have once taken a week to finish.

It's also important to note that only the wealthy would have had gardens devoted to pleasure and recreation, and some landowners would have had no qualms about removing houses and their occupants if they spoiled the view.

DO WE STILL USE ANY HISTORIC GARDENING METHODS TODAY?

Most of us still dig our gardens, but we don't tend to use the 'trenching' and 'double digging' methods [used to increase soil drainage and aeration] that were in widespread use as recently as the early 1900s. Grass cutting is different, too: not many gardeners today would use a scythe to trim their lawn, even though it is no more dangerous than using a lawn mower and is much better from an ecological point of view.

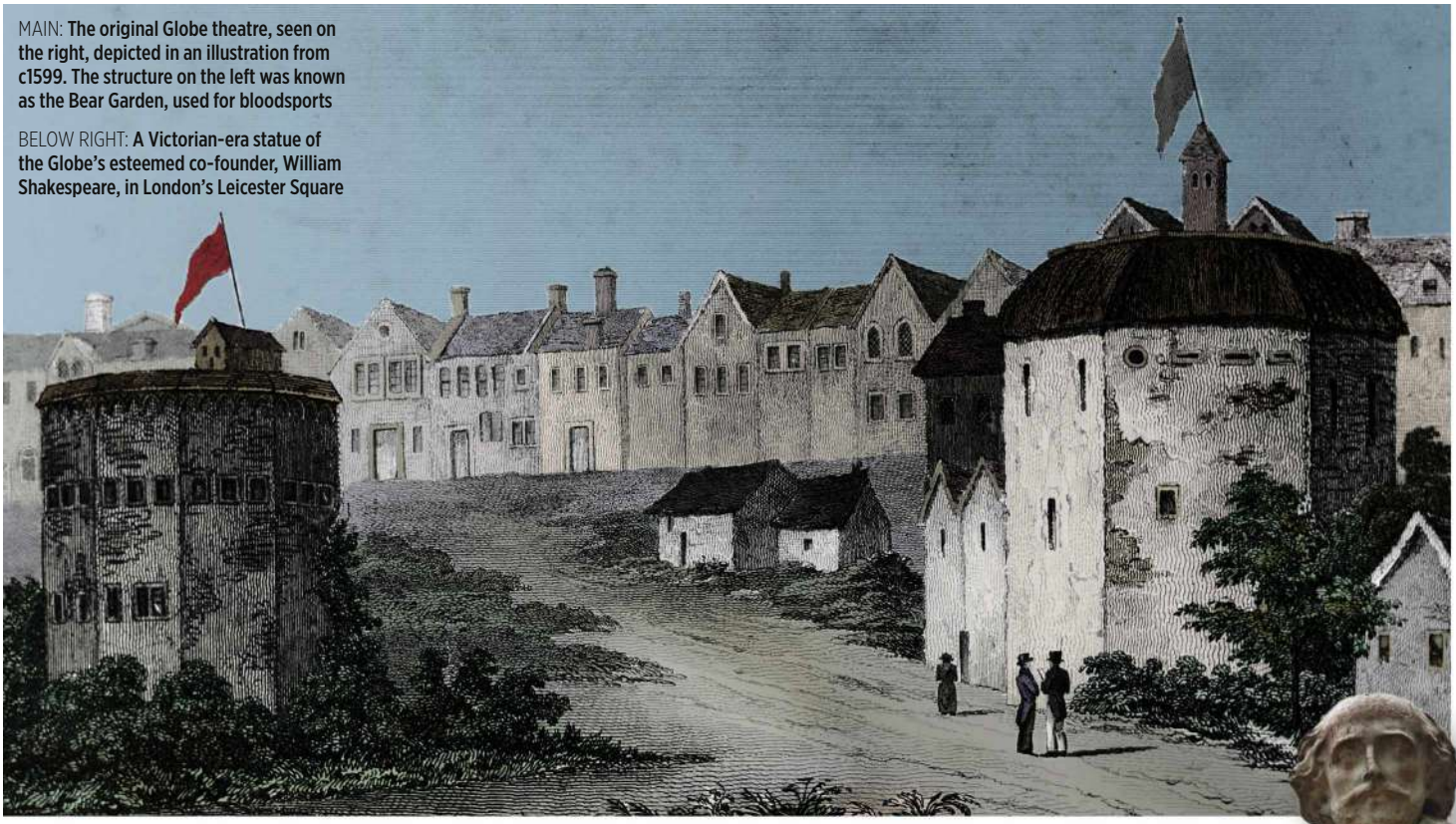
Weeding has always been a time consuming but important task for gardeners, and much of gardening past and present has involved removing unwanted plants. What has changed, however, are which plants have been considered weeds. Many of the so-called 'weeds' of today were important to our ancestors, but as their use fell into decline, they became unloved. Interestingly, though, the growing popularity of wildflower lawns and gardens has meant that some weeds are now back as garden plants, and as a bonus, attract more insects into the garden.

One thing that has always remained constant is people's love of gardening. As a historic gardener, my job is to tell people how gardening was done in the past and how essential it was for survival.

MICHAEL BROWN is a gardener, author and horticultural lecturer, who gives talks and costumed demonstrations as The Historic Gardener (*historicgardener.co.uk*). His new book, *A Guide to Medieval Gardens: Gardens in the Age of Chivalry*, was published earlier this year by White Owl

The Globe theatre burns to the ground

Words: Emma Slattery Williams



MAIN: **The original Globe theatre, seen on the right, depicted in an illustration from c1599. The structure on the left was known as the Bear Garden, used for bloodsports**

BELOW RIGHT: **A Victorian-era statue of the Globe's esteemed co-founder, William Shakespeare, in London's Leicester Square**

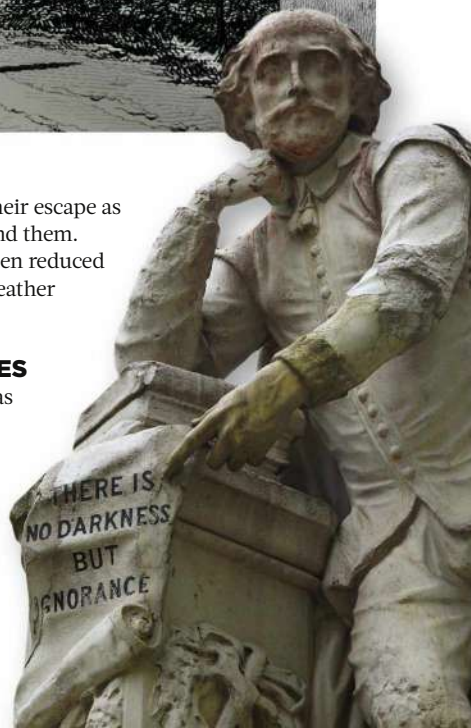
In the summer of 1613, William Shakespeare was at the height of his fame. He had written most of his best-loved plays and audiences still flocked to see his work being performed. However, on 29 June that year, one of his performances took the popular phrase 'burning down the house' a little too literally.

On that warm summer's day, *Henry VIII, or All is True* was being watched by eager theatregoers at the Globe in Southwark, London. As per the script, the actor (or 'player', as they were known) in the role of King Henry VIII made a surprise entrance on the stage at the end of the first act, accompanied by cannon fire. However, during this performance, a stray piece of flaming rag or paper from one of theatre's cannons landed on the Globe's thatched roof. At first, everyone was so engrossed in the play in front of them that no one noticed that flames were engulfing the theatre, assuming the smoke was all part of the show's special effects. Within an hour, however, the entire structure was ablaze.

The Globe was a polygonal (many-sided) building, with an open-air yard and tiered galleries around the sides. Due to the nature of its design, most of the assembled crowd only had two narrow doors to make their escape as the timber burned around them. Soon, the theatre had been reduced to ashes, with the hot weather hastening its demise.

BURNING BREECHES

Fortunately, everyone was able to evacuate the premises swiftly, with politician Sir Henry Wotton giving an eyewitness account of the disaster in a letter a few days later. In it, he



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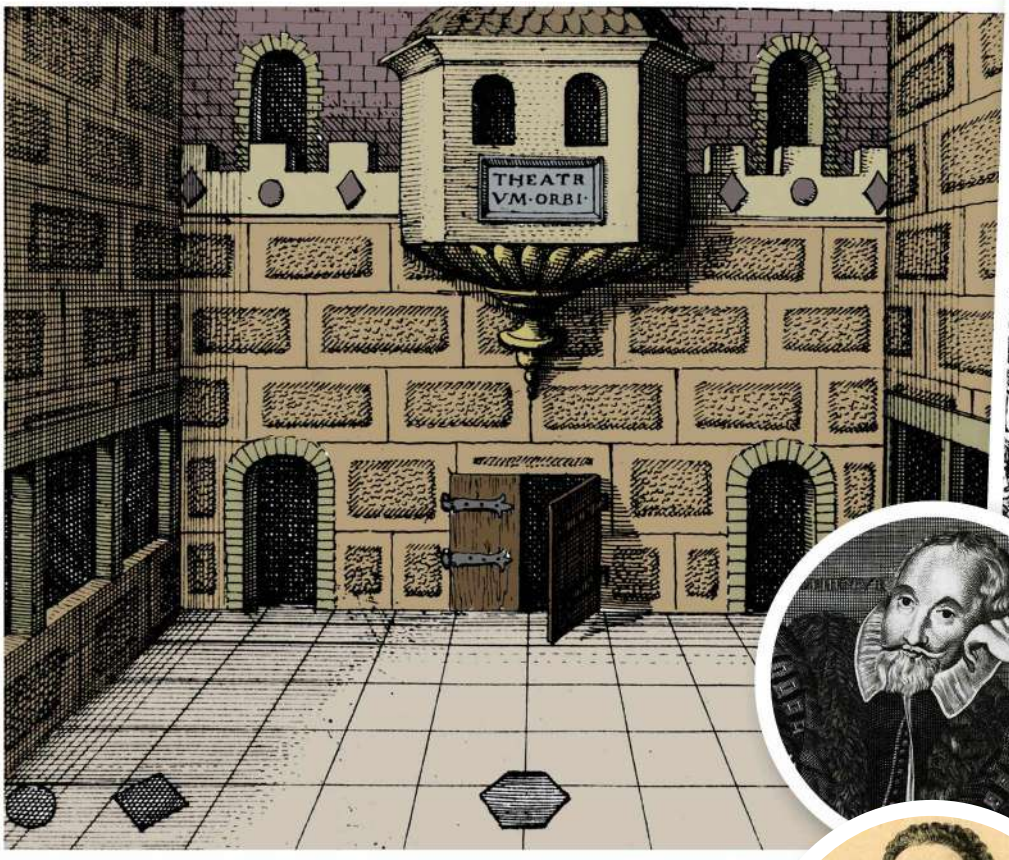
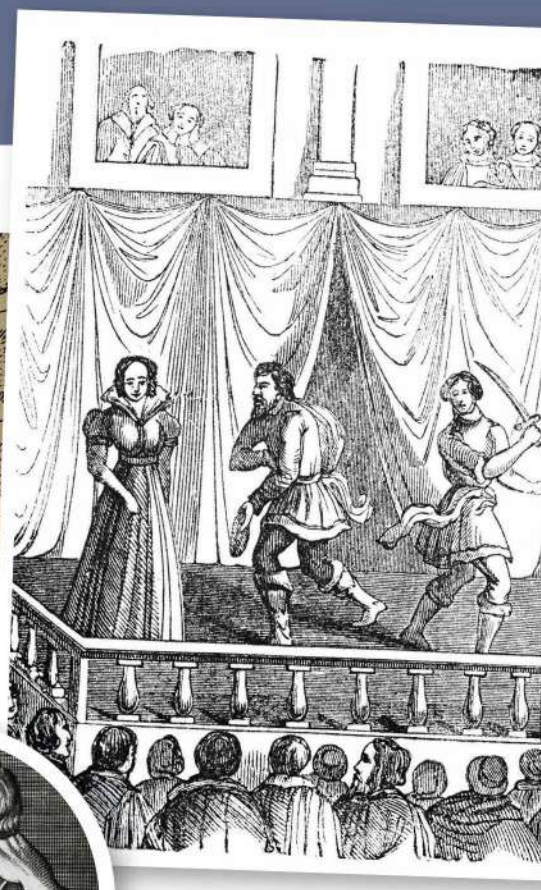
The Globe saw the first performances of many of Shakespeare's plays, including *Julius Caesar* and *Hamlet*





> "Soon, the theatre had been reduced to ashes, with the hot weather hastening its demise"

described how the audience were clearly enjoying themselves too much to notice the fire at first "as their eyes [were] more attentive to the show". He then wrote how the fire "kindled inwardly, and ran round like a train, consuming within less than an hour the whole house to the very grounds... nothing did perish but wood and straw and a few forsaken cloaks".

There were no reports of serious injuries, although Wotton explained how one theatregoer made a lucky escape: "Only one man had his breeches set on fire that would perhaps have broiled him if he had not by the benefit of a provident wit put it out with bottle ale."

The theatre's destruction was likely the talk of London for the next few weeks, and an anonymous street ballad was even printed about the incident the following day, each of its eight verses ending with "Oh sorrow, pitiful sorrow, and yet all this is true" – a reference to the alternative title of the play that had been performed. Although it was clearly an upsetting ordeal for those who witnessed the blaze, one advantage of the event is that it gives us the exact date on which one of Shakespeare's works was originally performed – something that historians often struggle to pinpoint.

THE PLAY'S THE THING

The fire, which also destroyed a taphouse attached to the venue, would have been a major blow to Londoners. Watching a show at the theatre was one of the most popular leisure pursuits in Elizabethan England, and by the turn of the 17th century, the city had been blessed with no fewer than four public theatres. These put on a vast range of productions, from moral and religious plays to comedies and tragedies.

But perhaps the biggest disappointment would have been experienced by William Shakespeare himself. The Globe was likely a source of great personal pride, and the result of years of hard work. During the 1590s, the Warwickshire-born playwright had made a name for himself as one of London's most popular dramatic talents, becoming a writer, actor and part-owner of a playing company called the Lord Chamberlain's Men. Not only did the group have the influential Lord Chamberlain Henry Carey as its patron (hence its name), but its members included two of the most acclaimed acting talents of the era, William Kempe and Richard Burbage.

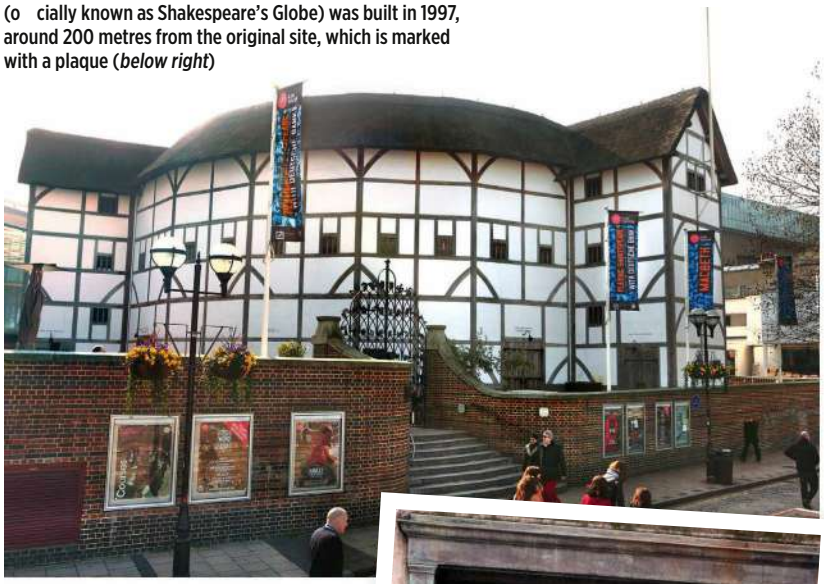
After performing at a venue in Shoreditch simply known as 'The Theatre', the company became successful enough to fund a new home in Southwark, and thus the Globe was born. According to one story, the Lord Chamberlain's Men secretly dismantled The Theatre (which was part of an ownership dispute) in the dead of night and put the timber in storage, allowing it to be resurrected in its new guise across the Thames in 1599. Being outside the jurisdiction of the Lord Mayor of London meant that the Globe could operate virtually unhindered – much like ▶

ABOVE: **A portrait of Richard Burbage – a key performer with the Lord Chamberlain's Men, of which William Shakespeare was also a member**

TOP: **Politician Sir Henry Wotton wrote a detailed account of the 1613 fire that engulfed the original Globe theatre**

TOP LEFT: **The second Globe, erected in 1614, was built to resemble its predecessor – albeit with more extravagant interior decoration**

The theatre that stands alongside the Thames today (o cially known as Shakespeare's Globe) was built in 1997, around 200 metres from the original site, which is marked with a plaque (*below right*)



◀ the wild taverns, brothels and animal-baiting venues that were also sited along the South Bank.

THE SHOW MUST GO ON

A year after the fateful blaze of 1613, a second version of the Globe was built on the same foundations as the original theatre, and so as not to tempt fate, was built with a tiled roof. As the company (now known as the King's Men, after James VI and I) had grown in wealth and popularity, it could afford for this theatre to be more extravagantly decorated – though the size and overall shape would remain the same.

By the time of the rebuild, Shakespeare had mostly retired from playwriting and had sold his shares in the King's Men – possibly a decision hastened by the heartbreak caused by the fire. Indeed, in the prologue of his final play, *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, which he wrote alongside John Fletcher, there is a poignant reference to "our losses", which appears to be an allusion to the incident.

But the second incarnation of the Globe would also prove relatively short-lived. On 6 September 1642, the Globe – along with every other theatre in London – was closed by the Long Parliament, which had first met two years earlier. It described theatre as being of "lascivious mirth and levity", and incompatible with the civil war raging between Parliament and King Charles I.

However, the decision would have certainly pleased one group of people: the Puritans. The strict Protestants saw theatregoing as both immoral and a distraction from religious worship, and decried the crime and excessive drinking that the venues attracted (not to mention the bawdy content of the plays themselves). As the Globe was no longer in use, it was demolished a few years later and the land was sold. The ban on theatres wouldn't be lifted again until the Restoration and the accession of King Charles II to the throne in 1660.

In 1997, a faithful reconstruction of the first Globe theatre was built around 200 metres from the original site, which today stages Shakespeare's plays, as well as many other productions. It is the only building in the UK capital that is permitted to have a thatched roof – ever since the Great Fire of London of 1666, such roofs have been banned in every corner of the city.

GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X2

BBC

EVERY MONTH THROUGHOUT 2022, WE'LL BE COMMEMORATING THE BBC'S 100TH BIRTHDAY WITH A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE...

21 June 1937

WIMBLEDON IS TELEVISED

After Britain's Fred Perry wins three consecutive Wimbledon singles titles between 1934 and 1936, the BBC is keen to capitalise on the public's growing appetite for tennis. So, in 1937, the broadcaster begins showing TV highlights from the present tournament, with a match between Bunny Austin and George Lyttleton Rogers the first to be transmitted. Don Budge (*pictured*) and Dorothy Round later go on to clinch the men's and women's singles titles respectively.

OTHER ANNIVERSARIES

A LOOK BACK AT OTHER EVENTS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN JUNE THROUGHOUT HISTORY

7 June 1329

ROBERT THE BRUCE DIES

Little more than a year after leading his countrymen to victory against the English during the First Scottish War of Independence, Robert the Bruce dies of an unknown illness and is buried in Dunfermline Abbey. In accordance with his wishes, his heart is removed from his body and taken on crusade, before being returned to Scotland, where it is interred in Melrose Abbey.

19–24 June 1667

THE DUTCH RAID THE MEDWAY

Two years into the Second Anglo-Dutch War, Dutch naval forces make their way up the Medway in southeast England. They attack Sheerness Fort before advancing on Chatham Docks, where they capture HMS *Royal Charles* – King Charles II's flagship. It is towed back to the Dutch port of Hellevoetsluis, where it is showed off as a tourist attraction.

BBC Radio's **Danny Robins** hears from a man who came face to face with the former owner of his new home. The problem was that she had been dead for a year...

"I am sure you are inundated with stories," reads the email. "All I can say is that this one needs to be heard."

Moments later, I'm typing a reply, convinced Grant has sent me one of the oddest, most unsettling ghost stories ever. Apparitions – ghosts you can actually see – are rare, but this case has loads of them! Grant's story takes place when he moved to Rottingdean, a windswept clifftop village near Brighton in the late 90s. Back in the 1930s and 40s, the village was home to a luxury hotel named Tudor Close. Hollywood stars such as Cary Grant and Bette Davis stayed there and it even inspired the board game Cluedo, which was originally known as 'Murder at Tudor Close'. When the hotel closed, it was converted into a crescent of separate houses, and it's one of these that Grant bought. "We still had the original 1930s bath," he tells me. "And our dining room had been the dining room of the hotel." From the photos I've seen, the house really does look like the set of a murder mystery. The previous owner was Elizabeth Dacre, a well-known figure in Rottingdean – a charismatic military widow, glamorous and wealthy, who'd died in her nineties, a year before Grant moved in.

The oddness starts one night as Grant is coming home from work. As he gets back to Rottingdean, the weather's at its worst – torrential rain and a savage wind coming in off the sea. The streets are deserted, but outside the local church, an old woman is sitting on a bench, braving the storm in an expensive camel coat, slowly rocking back and forth. If this seems strange, it gets stranger the next night when Grant sees her again on the exact same bench, in the exact same clothes, rocking in the exact same way...

Grant might have thought no more of it, but, a short while afterwards, his daughter says she sees an old lady standing outside their glass front door. When Grant's wife goes to answer it, there's nobody there! Then there's a visiting friend who tells Grant she sees his grandmother going up the stairs. Only Grant doesn't have a grandmother and there's nobody else in the house. Who is this mysterious old lady who keeps cropping up?

After buying a house in Rottingdean's historic Tudor Close (*right*), Grant – who had moved in with his family – claims he was haunted by the spectre of the previous owner

One day, Grant is sitting outside the house when some neighbours come over to say hello. They've lived on the crescent for years, and wonder if he might be interested in a book they have – a self-published autobiography of the house's previous owner, Elizabeth Dacre! Grant looks at the photo on the cover, of an old woman, still glamorous in her nineties... Suddenly, everything makes sense. He's staring at the face of the woman he saw outside the church! How can this be possible? Has Elizabeth really returned to haunt the new owners of her house?

Probably the strangest part of Grant's story, though, comes one night when he awakes as the burglar alarm goes off. Going downstairs, he opens the door to the dining room to be greeted by the sight of the 1930s dining room of the Tudor Close Hotel, full of guests decked out in period attire. It feels like a timeslip moment, a real-life version of *The Shining*'s Overlook Hotel photograph, a roomful of ghosts turning to stare at him as if *he* were the intruder!

DANNY ROBINS is a writer, broadcaster and journalist. He is the presenter of the BBC Radio 4 podcasts *The Battersea Poltergeist* and *Uncanny*, available on BBC Sounds

LISTEN

BBC SOUNDS

Grant's story is the subject of *Uncanny* case 13, 'The Return of Elizabeth Dacre'. Listen in full at *bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0013hb5*

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The Monmouth Rebellion

Words: Emma Slattery Williams

WHAT WAS THE MONMOUTH REBELLION?

The Monmouth Rebellion was an attempt by James Scott, 1st Duke of Monmouth, to overthrow his uncle James from the thrones of England and Ireland (where he ruled as James II) and Scotland (where he ruled as James VII). Also known as the 'West Country Rebellion' or 'Pitchfork Rebellion', it took place between June and July 1685, culminating in the battle of Sedgemoor: the last pitched battle fought on English soil.

WHAT WAS THE DUKE OF MONMOUTH'S BACKGROUND?

Born in 1649, Monmouth was the eldest illegitimate son of the previous reigning monarch, Charles II, by his mistress Lucy Walters. He spent many of his early years in the Dutch Republic (where Charles II had spent part of his exile during the Civil Wars and Interregnum period), before being brought to England after his father's restoration to the throne. In 1663, aged just 14, he married the heiress Anne Scott, 1st Duchess of Buccleuch.

Monmouth's father was fond of him and made him effective commander of the army in 1674. Unlike his Catholic uncle, who was next in line to the throne, Monmouth was a Protestant, and he was a highly popular Tgure among the people.

WHY DID MONMOUTH WANT TO OVERTHROW JAMES II AND VII?

As Charles II failed to have any legitimate children with his wife, Catherine of Braganza, James II and VII came to the throne in February 1685 following his brother's death. This worried Parliament, as well as the Protestant population, who feared a restoration of papal authority.

Parliament had previously attempted to pass an Exclusion Bill that would have barred James II and VII and his descendants from succeeding, but Charles II had dissolved Parliament before it could be allowed to pass. There were also whispers that Monmouth's parents had secretly married, making him legitimate and entitled to be in the line of succession. However, these rumours were never proven and may have been made up by those who wanted to ensure that James II and VII never became king.

An illustration depicts James Scott, 1st Duke of Monmouth, eeing from battle after attempting to unseat his Catholic uncle, James II and VII, from the thrones of England, Scotland and Ireland

"Unlike his uncle, who was next in line to the throne, Monmouth was a highly popular gure"

HOW DID THE REBELLION BEGIN?

Due to the growing threat he posed to the succession, Monmouth went into exile in the Dutch Republic in 1679, and in 1683 was identiTed as a conspirator in the Rye House Plot – a failed plan to assassinate both his father, Charles II, and his uncle, James (who was then known as the Duke of York). When James II and VII then became king two years later, a small number of nobles threw their support behind Monmouth, and he set about attempting to take the throne for himself.

So, on 11 June 1685, an invasion force led by Monmouth landed at Lyme Regis, Dorset, with around 80 men (including a number of Dutch mercenaries) armed with weapons such as pikes, muskets and cannons. The decision to land in southwest England was no accident: the local population was stanchly ▶

ABOVE LEFT: **A portrait of James II and VII before he inherited the throne from his brother (and Monmouth's father), Charles I**

ABOVE RIGHT: **Despite his illegitimacy, the Protestant Monmouth believed he had the right to rule**

GETTY IMAGES X2, ALAMY X1

◀ Protestant, and he was more likely to be able to gather supporters.

As Monmouth made his way inland, rebels from across the region flocked to join him, and upon his arrival in the Somerset town of Taunton, he proclaimed himself king. But, unfortunately for Monmouth, news of his rebellion had already reached James II and VII, and he swiftly assembled his forces in a bid to crush it.

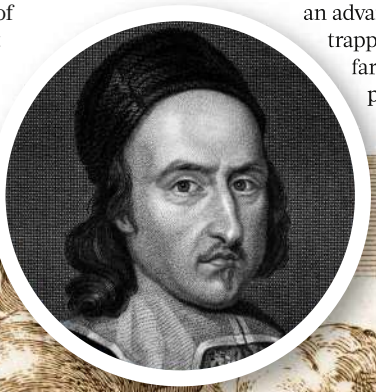
WHAT SORT OF PEOPLE WERE THE REBELS?

Those who joined Monmouth's cause were primarily artisans, labourers and farmers, armed with no more than scythes and pitchforks – hence the uprising's alternative name as the 'Pitchfork Rebellion'. Most of the men were Protestants or religious nonconformists who feared a Catholic king, and many were also frustrated with the present regime due to an economic recession that had befallen the southwest. Interestingly, a young Daniel Defoe – who would later find fame as the author of *Robinson Crusoe* – also joined the rebel cause.

HOW DID THE REBELLION CONTINUE?

After proclaiming himself king in Taunton, Monmouth and his men headed to the city of Bristol. The royalist army of James II and VII blocked their way by destroying a bridge over the River Avon, and both sides engaged in skirmishes across Somerset before Monmouth was forced to retreat south.

Monmouth had an important ally in Archibald Campbell, 9th Earl of Argyll, who was supposed to be organising his own simultaneous rebellion against James II and VII in Scotland, but he was swiftly captured and executed. On 28 June, Monmouth was informed of Argyll's failure, and he realised that the king's royalist troops were now solely focusing their efforts on him. Discovering the precarity of their position, rebels began to desert Monmouth in their droves.



Archibald Campbell, 9th Earl of Argyll, was supposed to lead a simultaneous rebellion against James II and VII in Scotland, but was swiftly captured

WHAT HAPPENED IN BRIDGWATER?

On 3 July, Monmouth reached the town of Bridgwater, where he heard news from a local, Richard Godfrey, that the king's army were camped a short distance away at Westonzoyland. Those among the royal troops included Henry Fitzroy, 1st Duke of Grafton (another illegitimate son of Charles II), Louis Duras, Earl of Feversham and John Churchill, the future Duke of Marlborough.

Climbing the tower of a local church, Monmouth surveyed his enemies in the moors before him. The royalists had around 2,600 men while Monmouth had around 3,600. Though he had an advantage in numbers, the troops trapping him in Bridgwater were far more experienced than his poorly disciplined and ill-trained

Fought on 6 July 1685 near the Somerset town of Bridgwater, the battle of Sedgemoor dashed Monmouth's chances of taking the throne

GETTY IMAGES X4

ABOVE LEFT: **After fleeing the battle of Sedgemoor and disguising himself as a shepherd, Monmouth was captured and executed at Tower Hill in London**

ABOVE RIGHT: **A 19th-century illustration shows a young woman pleading with a royalist solider not to arrest Alice Lisle, a landed lady later found guilty of treason at the 'Bloody Assizes'**

rebels, most of whom had never seen battle before. To make matters worse, the surrounding terrain – an area of the Somerset Levels known as Sedgemoor – was a hazardous place to wander around, let alone fight, and the royalists knew that the rebels would not dare attacking them from their current position.

So, with Richard Godfrey's help, Monmouth planned a surprise night-time assault across the Levels. As a local, he knew how to navigate the area's plank bridges and ensure that the rebels could reach the royalist troops without encountering major obstacles.

HOW DID THE BATTLE OF SEDGEMOOR UNFOLD?

With a plan in place, the rebels departed from Bridgwater during the early hours of 6 July, with Godfrey leading the way in front of the cavalry. However, despite coming from the direction that the royalists least expected, the rebels were spotted struggling across the final ford.

As the royalists surged forward in attack, the rebels' horses fled the scene, leaving the infantry at the mercy of the royalist cavalry. The professional royalist troops made light work of Monmouth's men, and in the space of around three hours, they were destroyed. Those who managed to flee the initial clash were quickly hunted down, and some were even hanged along the roadside.

In total, around 1,000 rebels were killed during the battle and many more taken prisoner, while the royalists lost fewer than 100 men. Monmouth's ambitions for the Crown were crushed.

WHAT HAPPENED TO MONMOUTH AND HIS SUPPORTERS?

Monmouth managed to flee the battlefield along with one of his most prominent supporters, Lord Grey, before eventually being captured in Hampshire. On 15 July 1685, Monmouth was beheaded in London – it's believed that the executioner, Jack Ketch, was so inexperienced that he had to use a knife to finish the job.

Grey was found guilty of treason but was pardoned after giving evidence against Monmouth and his supporters. Most of the captured rebels now faced trial at the so-called 'Bloody Assizes'.

WHAT WERE THE BLOODY ASSIZES?

In August 1685, James II and VII ordered Lord Chief Justice Judge George Jeffreys down to the city of Winchester to deal with the trials of the rebels who now filled the jails of southwest England. This was only expected to take a few days and was intended as a deterrent against further rebellion.

> "It's believed that Monmouth's executioner, Jack Ketch, had to use a knife to finish the job"

Jeffreys showed very little mercy, and one elderly lady – Alice Lisle – was sentenced to death simply for helping two of the rebels, despite not being involved in the uprising herself. While many assumed she would be pardoned, Lisle was ultimately found guilty of treason, and became the last woman in England to be executed by the judicial sentence of beheading.

The court then moved on to sit in towns and cities such as Dorchester, Salisbury, Wells and Exeter, with a large number of those on trial found guilty and condemned to death. In many cases, this meant a public hanging and disembowelling, with their heads put on display for all to see.

It's believed that around 200 rebels were executed in total, with a similar number imprisoned, fined or whipped. Around 800 people were also transported to the colonies of the West Indies, where they were forced to undertake hard labour in often sweltering and harsh conditions.

These were dark days for southwest England, and for many centuries to come, certain trees were still known as 'gallows trees' where the condemned had spent their agonising final moments. Many across the country saw the punishments handed out as far too harsh, which is why the courts became known as the 'Bloody Assizes'. The actions fuelled a decline in support for James II and VII, and also added to Judge Jeffreys' fearsome reputation as the 'Hanging Judge'.

WHAT HAPPENED TO JAMES II AND VII?

To protect himself from further uprisings, James II and VII expanded the size of his army and allowed Catholics to occupy some of the highest offices in the country. When Parliament objected to his attempts to remove the religious oaths people were required to take to hold such positions, he responded by dismissing Parliament altogether.

However, James II and VII's time on the throne was rather short-lived. In 1688, he was deposed during the 'Glorious Revolution', when he was replaced in favour of his Protestant daughter Mary and her husband, William of Orange. He spent most of the rest of his life in exile in France.

LISTEN

BBC RADIO 4 Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss the Restoration period, including the accession of King James II and VII, in an archive episode of *In Our Time*: *bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p00547bx*

The struggles that made Charles Dickens

Few British authors have achieved the same level of adoration as the creator of classics such as *A Christmas Carol* and *Great Expectations*. But where did Dickens find the inspiration for his literary masterpieces?

In 1824, at just 12 years old, Charles John Huffam Dickens had no choice but to leave school and get a job. Born on 7 February 1812, his idyllic childhood had come crashing down when his father, John, who had always been reckless with the money he earned as a Royal Navy clerk, ended up in a debtors' prison. As the eldest son, it fell to Charles to bring in much-needed coins to help his family. For six shillings, he worked 10-hour days in the rat-infested Warren's blacking factory in London, sticking labels on bottles of shoe polish.

That traumatic and humiliating year or so left a black mark that couldn't be washed away from Dickens' mind. It helped make him become the voice of Victorian conscience and an author for all time.

Leaving school for good at 15, Dickens clerked in a solicitor's office, reported on the law courts, and developed a journalistic bent for newspapers. Well-read and already with a gift for description using the most deliciously evocative language, his creative mind could not be bound by such employment, though. Dickens wrote short stories and sketches for newspapers or magazines, publishing them as *Sketches by Boz*, the pseudonym he used, in 1836.

COMEDY AND COMPASSION

In fact, 1836 turned out to be a momentous year for Dickens, as he got married to Catherine Hogarth and printed as a serial his first novel, *The Pickwick Papers*. Straight away, readers loved his style. He went on to edit the monthly magazine, *Bentley's Miscellany*, in which he released *Oliver Twist*. The serial format gave his work an episodic quality, with plenty of chances for cliffhangers, which suited Dickens' restless creativity. He then followed with *Nicholas Nickleby*, *The Old Curiosity Shop* and *Barnaby Rudge*.

Before long, Dickens was being hailed as the greatest writer of the age. He combined elegantly harsh satire on the treatment of the poor with a compassion for their lot, and wrote of social wrongs and evildoing, while knowing the importance of comedy (even if just with a silly name). He walked the streets of London, his muse, at night for inspiration and added details and characters from his own life. His works could be both biting realism and flights of fancy.

Charles Dickens pictured in 1858. Despite his global fame, the author never forgot his struggles with hardship as a child

Dickens wrote *Martin Chuzzlewit* (1842–44) after an exhausting trip to the United States, where he had been mobbed everywhere he went. It would be his first novel with relatively disappointing sales, so Dickens looked for a quick hit, and some money for his ever-growing family. In a matter of weeks, he had penned *A Christmas Carol*, a mini-masterpiece that forever linked Dickens with Christmas, and influenced how the festive season was, and is, celebrated. Charitable giving increased in London after its first print run, which sold out immediately. Dickens actually wrote Christmas stories nearly every year thereafter, but none matched the affection felt for Scrooge's night with the three spirits of Christmas.

Dickens seemed to succeed in any venture, including amateur acting and a return to journalism by briefly editing the *Daily News* in 1846. He was a devoted father to his 10 children, a joyous host, a generous fundraiser, and a lover of the finer things – although he did worry about being too much like his father in that regard. And the novels kept coming, from *Dombey and Son* to *David Copperfield*, which he described as his "favourite child".

Yet in his words, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." An older Dickens' novels became darker, more despondent, more typically Dickensian. *Bleak House*, *Hard Times*, *Little Dorrit*, *A Tale of Two Cities* and *Great Expectations* fitted his increasingly sombre mood. His marriage had long been unhappy, but now he no longer lived with Catherine, moving to a country house near Chatham, Gad's Hill Place, and had begun an affair with a much younger actress, Ellen 'Nelly' Ternan.

A TRAUMATIC CRASH

Dickens came to crave the adoration of his fans more. A gifted performer, he gave as many as 500 readings of his works in Britain and the US right until a year before his death. His ebullient character waned a little more in June 1865 after being caught up in a deadly train accident. Several carriages derailed while crossing a bridge, and while Dickens came away unharmed, he had to comfort the wounded as they cried out in pain and died. He gave his serialised novel *Our Mutual Friend* (an instalment of which he had to save from the train) some darker additions following the crash.

It would be his final finished novel. In the months before his death, on 9 June 1870, he failed to complete *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and had to abandon another punishing reading tour. Dickens holds a special reputation now as one of those writers whose influence cannot truly be measured. Such was the genius of his entire body of work that it classifies as its own genre, while his colourful characters live on through the ages, telling the story of the archetypal Victorian novelist.

WORDS: JONNY WILKES

GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X1

Dickens is seen reading to his daughters Katie (*centre*) and Marie (*right*) in 1865. Despite his reputation as a devoted family man, the author would embark on a secret affair with the actress Nelly Ternan

"Dickens was a devoted father to his 10 children, a joyous host, and a lover of the finer things – although he did worry about being too much like his father in that regard"

RIGHT: An illustration from a 1910 edition of *The Pickwick Papers*, Dickens' debut novel. First published as a serial between 1836 and 1837, the tale follows the gentlemen of the ctitious Pickwick Club and their farcical travels around England

FAR RIGHT: Scrooge is visited by the Ghost of Christmas Present in an 1843 edition of *A Christmas Carol*. Charitable giving surged in London following its rst print run

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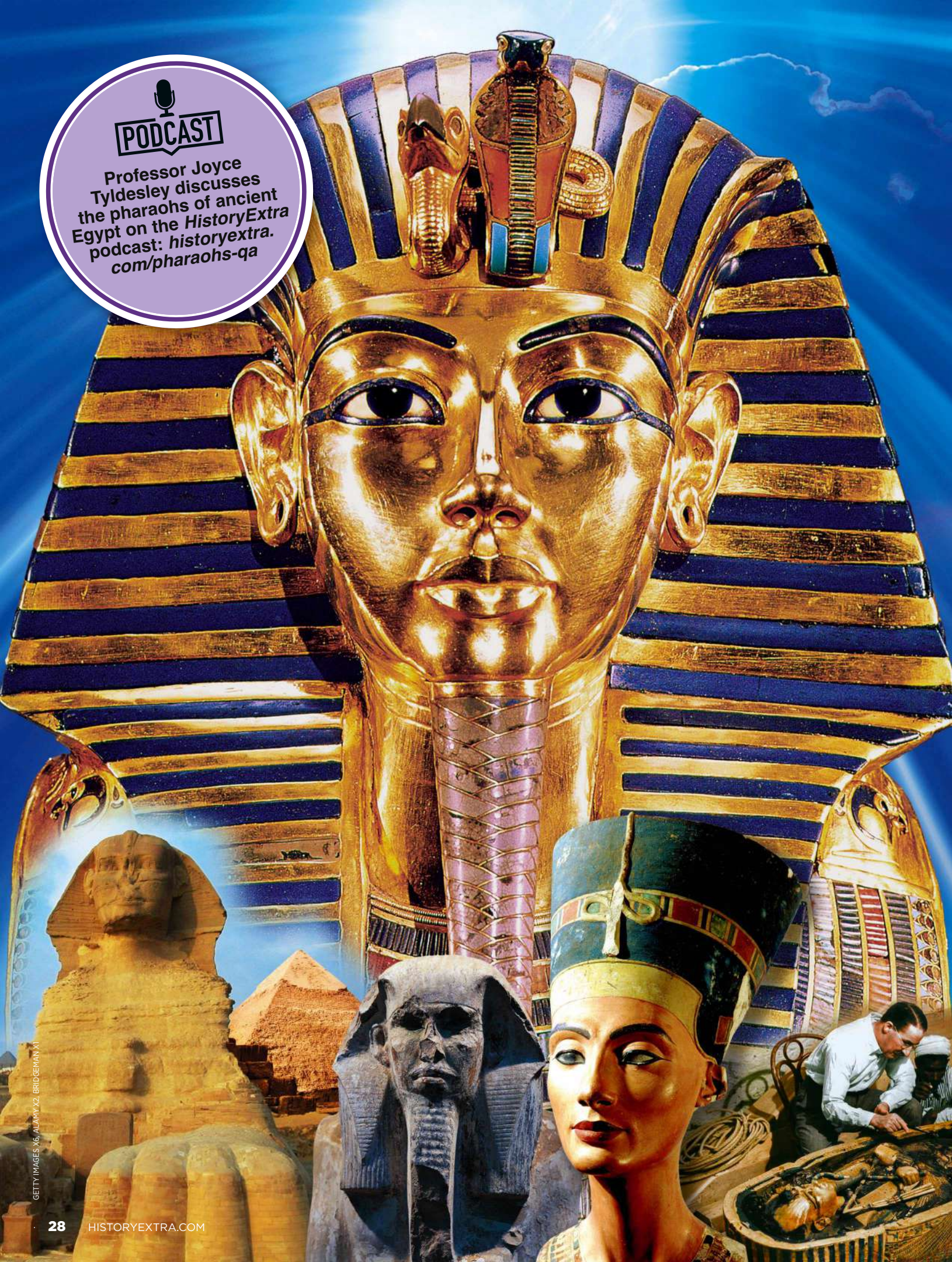

PODCAST

Professor Joyce Tyldesley discusses the pharaohs of ancient Egypt on the *HistoryExtra* podcast: *historyextra.com/pharaohs-qa*

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YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO

EGYPT'S MIGHTY PHARAOHS

The pharaohs of ancient Egypt have left an indelible mark on the land they once ruled. From their magnificent pyramids towering above the barren sands of the desert, to their treasure-laden tombs deep below ground, the pharaohs' power remains visible for all to see. But who were they, and how did they live?

In this Essential Guide, we'll be taking a closer look at the men and women who ruled ancient Egypt – from the unification of Upper and Lower Egypt in c3100 BC, to the end of the pharaonic era in 30 BC. Helping us to separate fact from fiction is historian and Egyptologist Professor Joyce Tyldesley, who will answer questions on some of the most important aspects of the topic – from the reigns of female kings, to the training undertaken by royal heirs.

We'll also step inside the long-lost tomb of Tutankhamun, find out what happened to the bodies of Egyptian kings after they died, and learn about the gods and goddesses they worshipped. But first, turn over the page to explore a dynastical timeline of ancient Egypt…

30 Timeline of the pharaonic age
Discover more than 3,000 years of kingly rule with our handy overview of key dates and dynasties

32 Everything you wanted to know about Egyptian pharaohs
Professor Joyce Tyldesley answers questions about Egypt's ancient rulers

36 Egypt's most powerful women
Men weren't the only people to shape one of antiquity's greatest civilisations

38 Life as a pharaoh
What was daily life really like for the rulers of ancient Egypt?

42 Six things you (probably) didn't know about Tutankhamun
He is one of Egypt's most famous pharaohs, but how much do you really know about the young ruler?

46 Inside Tutankhamun's tomb
Explore the final resting place of the so-called 'boy king', whose discovery in 1922 remains one of the world's greatest archaeological finds

48 Ensuring a legacy
Discover the tombs and temples that continue to enthral visitors today

50 The men who ruled Egypt
From Khufu to Ramesses II, meet some of Egypt's most significant pharaohs

52 The quest for immortality
Find out why the afterlife was so important to the ancient Egyptians

55 Get hooked
Continue your journey into ancient Egypt with our pick of books, podcasts and television programmes to investigate next

HISTORICAL CONSULTANT FOR THIS MONTH'S ESSENTIAL GUIDE

JOYCE TYLDESLEY is professor of Egyptology at the University of Manchester. Her latest book, *Tutankhamun – Pharaoh, Icon, Enigma: Ten Tales of Egypt's Enduring King*, is due to be published by Headline on 27 October

THE AGE OF THE PHARAOHS

EARLY DYNASTIC PERIOD
c3000–2686 BC

1st Dynasty: c3000–2890 BC

▼ First pharaoh: Aha (c3000 BC–unknown)
Last pharaoh: Qa'a (unknown–2890 BC)

2nd Dynasty: 2890–2686 BC

First pharaoh: Hetepsekhemwy (2890 BC–unknown)
Last pharaoh: Khasekhemwy (unknown–2686 BC)

KEY INFO

▼ The era directly following the unification of Upper and Lower Egypt in c3100 BC, the Early Dynastic Period sees a capital city established at Memphis.

GETTY IMAGES X6, ALAMY X4

OLD KINGDOM
2686–2160 BC

3rd Dynasty: 2686–2613 BC

First pharaoh: Nebka (2686–2667 BC)
Last pharaoh: Huni (2637–2613 BC)

4th Dynasty: 2613–2494 BC

First pharaoh: Sneferu (2613–2589 BC)
Last pharaoh: Shepseskaf (2503–2498 BC)

5th Dynasty: 2494–2345 BC

First pharaoh: Userkaf (2494–2487 BC)
Last pharaoh: Unas (2375–2345 BC)

6th Dynasty: 2345–2181 BC

First pharaoh: Teti (2345–2323 BC)
Last pharaoh: Nitiqret (2184–2181 BC)

7th and 8th Dynasties: 2181–2160 BC

Several ephemeral kings ruled in the 7th Dynasty, most of whom took the name of Neferkara – probably in imitation of the throne name of Pepy II (6th Dynasty, 2278–2184 BC). The short-lived 8th Dynasty was equally unstable and saw the collapse of the Old Kingdom system of control.

KEY INFO

The first true, flat-sided pyramids are built during the reign of Sneferu (founder of the 4th Dynasty), in place of the step pyramids commonly found in the 3rd Dynasty. Sneferu's son, Khufu (2589–2566 BC), builds the Great Pyramid of Giza, and the Great Sphinx follows, probably during the reign of Khafre (Khufu's son and successor, 2558–2532 BC), together with a second pyramid. The third pyramid at Giza is probably built during the reign of Khafre's successor, Menkaure (2532–2503 BC). Egypt splits into several political units after the 94-year reign of Pepy II (6th Dynasty).

FIRST INTERMEDIATE PERIOD
2160–2055 BC

9th and 10th Dynasties: 2160–2025 BC

▲ First pharaoh: Khety (2160 BC–unknown)
Last pharaoh: Merykara (unknown –2025 BC)

11th Dynasty (Thebes only): 2125–2055 BC

First pharaoh: Intef I (2125–2112 BC)
Last pharaoh: Intef III (2063–2055 BC)

KEY INFO

Centralised power weakens during this period, and Egypt is ruled by two competing dynasties. One is based at Heracleopolis in the north, with the other based at Thebes in the south.

MIDDLE KINGDOM
2055–1650 BC

11th Dynasty (all Egypt): 2055–1985 BC

First pharaoh: Mentuhotep II (2055–2004 BC)
Last pharaoh: Mentuhotep IV (1992–1985 BC)

12th Dynasty: 1985–1773 BC

First pharaoh: Amenemhat I (1985–1956 BC)
Last pharaoh: Queen Sobekneferu (1777–1773 BC)

13th Dynasty: 1773–after 1650 BC

First pharaoh: Wegaf (1773 BC–unknown)
Last pharaoh: Ay (exact dates unknown)

14th Dynasty: 1773–1650 BC

Believed to be minor rulers whose reigns were contemporary with the 13th or 15th Dynasties

KEY INFO

▼ Upper and Lower Egypt are reunified under Mentuhotep II (*pictured below*). Evidence indicates a shift in the pharaoh's role as political and spiritual leader during this period, as well as changes in the organisation of society, religious beliefs, and relations with neighbouring peoples. During the 12th Dynasty a new capital is established, at Idj Tawy.

SECOND INTERMEDIATE PERIOD
1650–1550 BC

15th Dynasty: 1650–1550 BC

First pharaoh: Salitis/Sekerher (1650 BC–unknown)
Last pharaoh: Khamudi (exact dates unknown)

16th Dynasty: 1650–1580 BC

Theban rulers contemporary with 15th Dynasty

17th Dynasty: c1580–1550 BC

First pharaoh: Rahotep (c1580 BC–unknown
Last pharaoh: Kamose (1555–1550 BC)

KEY INFO

Egypt is once again ruled by competing dynasties, with the north ruled by the Hyksos – descendants of people from western Asia who had settled in the eastern Nile Delta – who ally with rulers of Kerma in Nubia against the Egyptian 16th Dynasty, based in Thebes.

*The dates used in this feature are derived from *The Oxford History of Ancient Egypt*, edited by Ian Shaw (OUP, 2000). Please note that dates will vary between di erent sources.

We chart nearly 3,000 years of pharaonic rule – from the reigning dynasties, to key moments in ancient Egyptian history

WORDS: CHARLOTTE HODGMAN

NEW KINGDOM
1550–1069 BC

◀ 18th Dynasty: 1550–1295 BC

First pharaoh: Ahmose I (1550–1525 BC)
Last pharaoh: Horemheb (1323–1295 BC)

RAMESSIDE PERIOD
1295–1069 BC

19th Dynasty: 1295–1186 BC

First pharaoh: Ramesses I (1295–1294 BC)
Last pharaoh: Queen Tausret (1188–1186 BC)

20th Dynasty: 1186–1069 BC

First pharaoh: Sethnakht (1186–1184 BC)
Last pharaoh: Ramesses XI (1099–1069 BC)

KEY INFO

▼ Ahmose I drives the Hyksos from the Delta and reunites Egypt, ushering in nearly 500 years of political and economic stability. The following Ramesside period is a high point in Egyptian history, with great building projects – particularly during the 1279–1213 BC rule of Ramesses II (*pictured below*) – and conquests in Syria, Libya and Nubia.

THIRD INTERMEDIATE PERIOD
1069–664 BC

21st Dynasty: 1069–945 BC

First pharaoh: Smendes (1069–1043 BC)
Last pharaoh: Psusennes II (959–945 BC)

22nd Dynasty: 945–715 BC

First pharaoh: Sheshonq I (945–924 BC)
Last pharaoh: Osorkon IV (unknown–715 BC)

23rd Dynasty: 818–715 BC (contemporary with late 22nd, 24th and early 25th dynasties)

Pharaohs include:
Pedubastis I
Takelot III
Iuput II

24th Dynasty: 727–715 BC

Known pharaoh: Bakenrenef (720–715 BC)

25th Dynasty: 747–656 BC

First pharaoh: Piy (747–716 BC)
Last pharaoh: Tanutamani (664–656 BC)

KEY INFO

▼ The death of Ramesses XI in 1069 BC sees Egypt descend into some 400 years of politically divided rule, with various centres of power and a loss of control over Nubia (Kush) in the south, which is ruled by an independent dynasty in the mid-eighth century BC. In the late eighth century BC, the Kushite ruler Piy (*whose victory stele is pictured below*), invades Egypt and lays the foundations for the 25th Dynasty.

LATE PERIOD
664–332 BC

26th Dynasty: 664–525 BC

First pharaoh: Psamtek I (664–610 BC)
Last pharaoh: Psamtek III (526–525 BC)

27th Dynasty (1st Persian Period): 525–404 BC

First pharaoh: Cambyses (525–522 BC)
Last pharaoh: Artaxerxes II (405–359 BC)

28th Dynasty: 404–399 BC

Only pharaoh: Amyrtaios (404–399 BC)

29th Dynasty: 399–380 BC

First pharaoh: Nepherites I (399–393 BC)
Last pharaoh: Nepherites II (c380 BC)

30th Dynasty: 380–343 BC

First pharaoh: Nectanebo I (380–362 BC)
Last pharaoh: Nectanebo II (360–343 BC)

2nd Persian Period: 343–332 BC

First pharaoh: Artaxerxes III Ochus (343–338 BC)
Last pharaoh: Darius III Codoman (336–332 BC)

KEY INFO

Egypt sees considerable turmoil with foreign powers threatening throughout the period. In 525 BC, the Achaemenid Persian empire invades for the first time but will be ousted by Alexander the Great in 332 BC.

PTOLEMAIC PERIOD
332–30 BC

Macedonian Dynasty: 332–305 BC

First pharaoh: Alexander the Great (332–323 BC)
Last pharaoh: Alexander IV (317–310 BC, nominal ruler 310–305 BC)

Ptolemaic Dynasty: 305 BC–30 AD

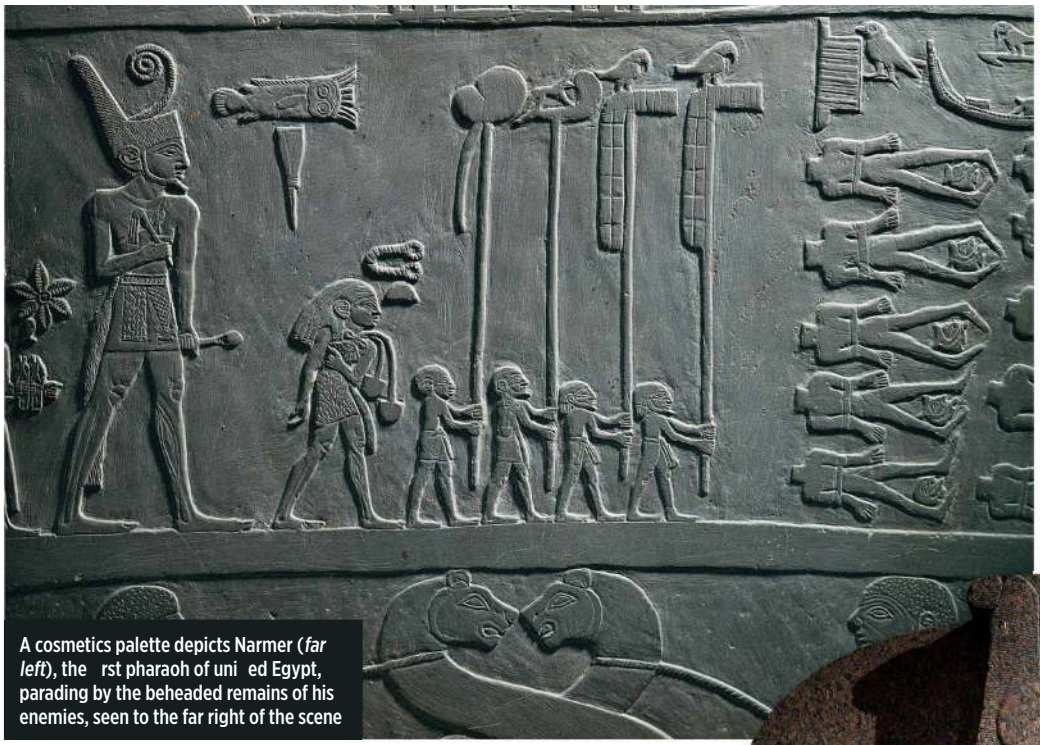
First pharaoh: Ptolemy I Soter (305–285 BC)
Last pharaoh: Ptolemy XV Caesarion (44–30 BC)

KEY INFO

▼ After Alexander the Great's death, rule passes to one of his generals, Ptolemy. Antony and Cleopatra's defeat at Actium by Octavian (future Roman Emperor Augustus) in 31 BC is followed by the murder of Egypt's last pharaoh, Cleopatra's son Caesarion (*pictured with his mother, below*), the following year.

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT EGYPTIAN PHARAOHS

Professor Joyce Tyldesley answers key questions about Egypt's ancient rulers and the power they wielded



A cosmetics palette depicts Narmer (*far left*), the first pharaoh of united Egypt, parading by the beheaded remains of his enemies, seen to the far right of the scene

Q: What does the word 'pharaoh' mean and when was it first used?

A: It comes from the ancient Egyptian for 'great house', but what it actually means is 'king'. And it's a word that today we use to describe ancient kings of Egypt, but the Egyptians themselves didn't always use it.

Q: When did the era of the Egyptian pharaohs begin?

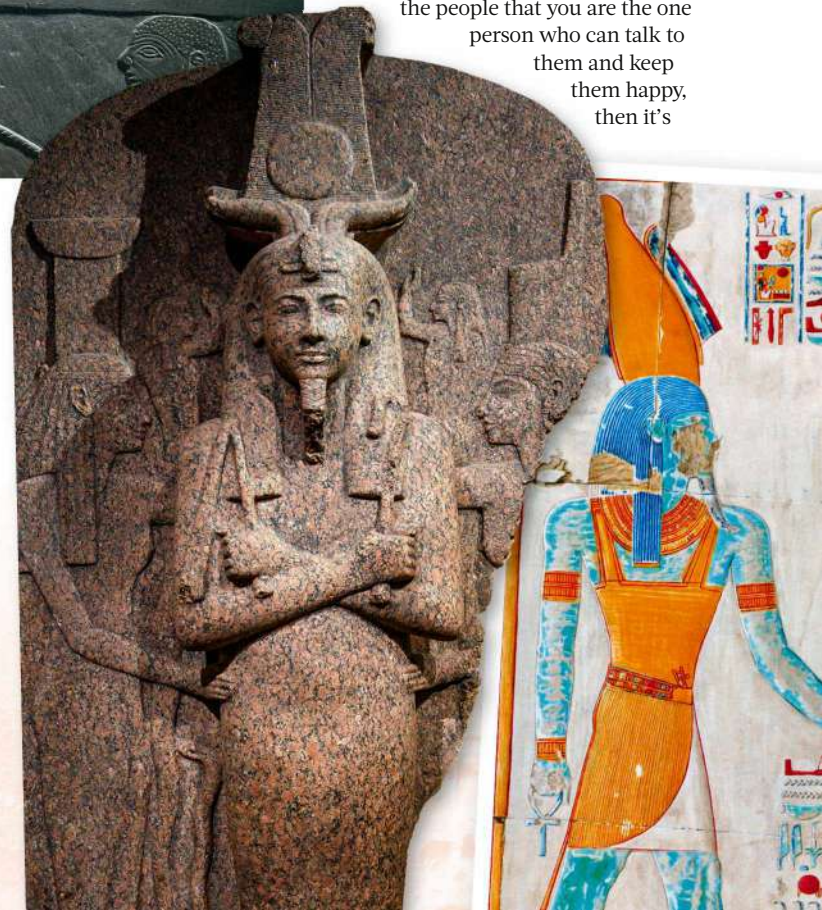
A: The first person we can really say ruled all of Egypt was Narmer in about 3100 BC. Before that, the land we now know as Egypt was made up of independent cities and satellite communities along the Nile and in the Nile Delta. So, the era of the pharaohs can really be seen to have begun with political unification of the country and continued to the reign of Cleopatra, who died in 30 BC. And there was never any real determination to break away from having a king, or pharaoh, of Egypt during this time.

Q: How many pharaohs ruled Egypt between c3100 BC and 30 BC?

A: It's very difficult to tell. For some periods, we have really good records, but for other periods we don't have any records at all, so it's very hard to trace king after king. What's more, during the times when Egypt was split into two separate kingdoms, there were two rival pharaohs on the throne at the same time, which also confuses things. And there were also occasions when kings ruled together, as well as regencies. But I would say there were probably at least 300 pharaohs during this period, possibly more, although they were not all from the same family line.

Q: Why did the pharaonic era last so long?

A: I think it's because the pharaohs told everybody that they were indispensable and were the only people in Egypt who could communicate with the gods. The gods were everything to the ancient Egyptians, so if you can convince the people that you are the one person who can talk to them and keep them happy, then it's

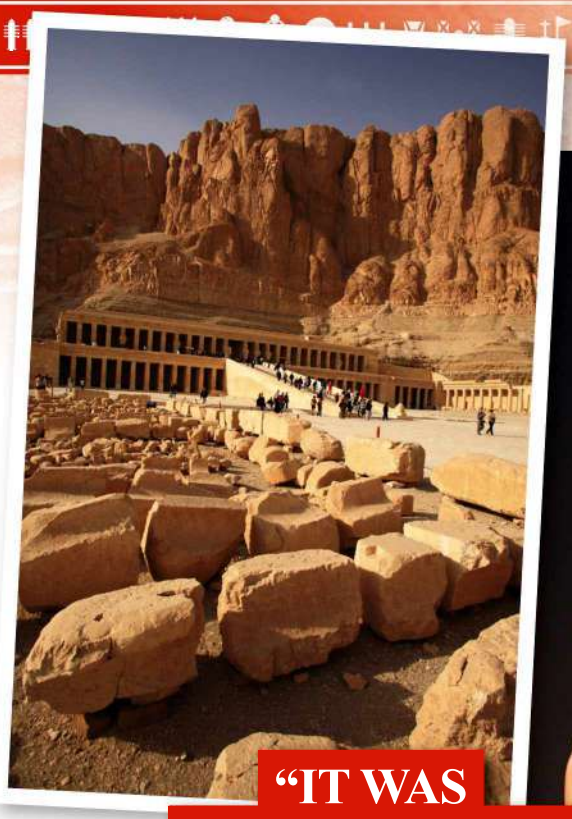


GETTY IMAGES X4, ALAMY X2

very unlikely that they will try and get rid of you. We do know of pharaohs who were assassinated, such as Ramesses III in 1153 BC, but it didn't happen very often. And there was never a move to replace a king with a democratic system of rule. I think the ancient Egyptians just couldn't imagine life without a pharaoh; even their afterlife was ruled by a king – Osiris.

Q: How did ancient Egyptians feel about being ruled by a female pharaoh?

A: It was decided, right at the start of the dynastic age, that it was possible for a woman to rule Egypt, but it wasn't considered an ideal situation. It was preferable for rule to pass from pharaoh to son, or to another male who had been adopted and who had assumed the role of son. But occasionally, where there was no obvious male successor, it was necessary for a woman to rule. This only happened a few times, and during their reigns, female pharaohs were accepted. Hatshepsut, for example, who is the female pharaoh most people know about, was on the throne for about 20 years and Egypt seems to have flourished during her reign. But after she had died, she wasn't looked upon so kindly and was pretty much cut out of history by her successor. If it wasn't for her magnificent temple at Deir el-Bahri, we wouldn't know much about her. But during their actual reigns, people didn't seem to have a problem with being ruled by a female pharaoh.



MAIN: **A seated statue of Hatshepsut, the famous female pharaoh whose two-decade rule saw ancient Egypt ourish**

LEFT: **Hatshepsut's mortuary temple survives at Deir el-Bahri, despite concerted efforts to erase traces of her rule by her successor, Thutmose III**

"IT WAS DECIDED THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR A WOMAN TO RULE EGYPT, BUT IT WASN'T CONSIDERED IDEAL"

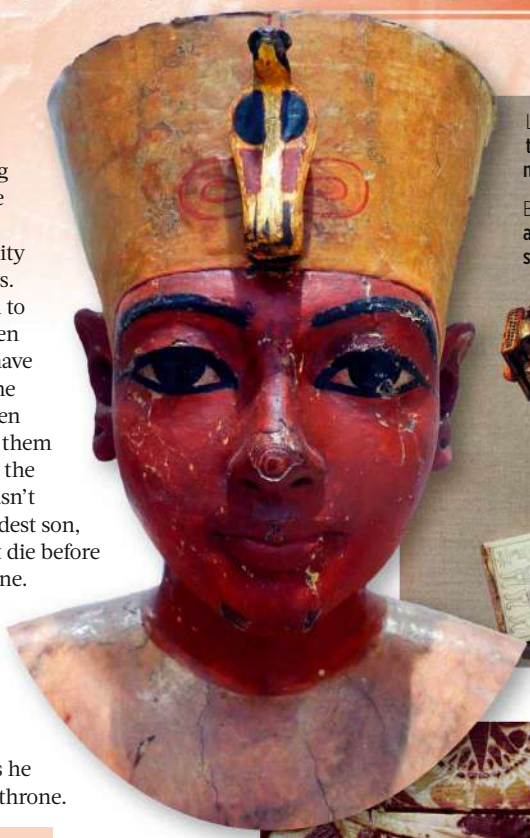
LEFT: **Even the afterlife was ruled by a king. Here, a copy of a wall painting shows Sety I (r1294-1279 BC) opening the door for Osiris, lord of the dead**

FAR LEFT: **The sarcophagus lid of Ramesses III, who was assassinated in 1155 BC as part of a plot led by his secondary wife, Tiye, who wanted to place her eldest son on the throne**

Once you had been crowned king, it didn't matter who you were before; the act of being crowned meant that you would be acceptable to the people from that point onwards. There was no going back once you'd been proclaimed king. This is why we tend to use the title 'female pharaoh' or 'female king' rather than 'queen', which has very different meanings when used in a modern, English context. When we're discussing ancient Egypt, we're not just talking about a strong ruling queen, we're talking about a woman who has taken that extra step and become the king.

Q: What training did future pharaohs have to undertake?

A: It's difficult to know for sure, but we do have some indications; we know that some kings were trained in military arts, for example. Tutankhamun had writing palettes in his tomb, so we think that he was trained in reading and writing as well. And it seems that there was a system of tutors who were attached to the royal palace. The problem was, though, ▶



LEFT: **A bust of Tutankhamun, found inside the boy king's tomb – possibly used as a mannequin to display his clothes or jewellery**

BELOW: **Tutankhamun was also interred alongside a writing palette and reed case, suggesting he was literate**

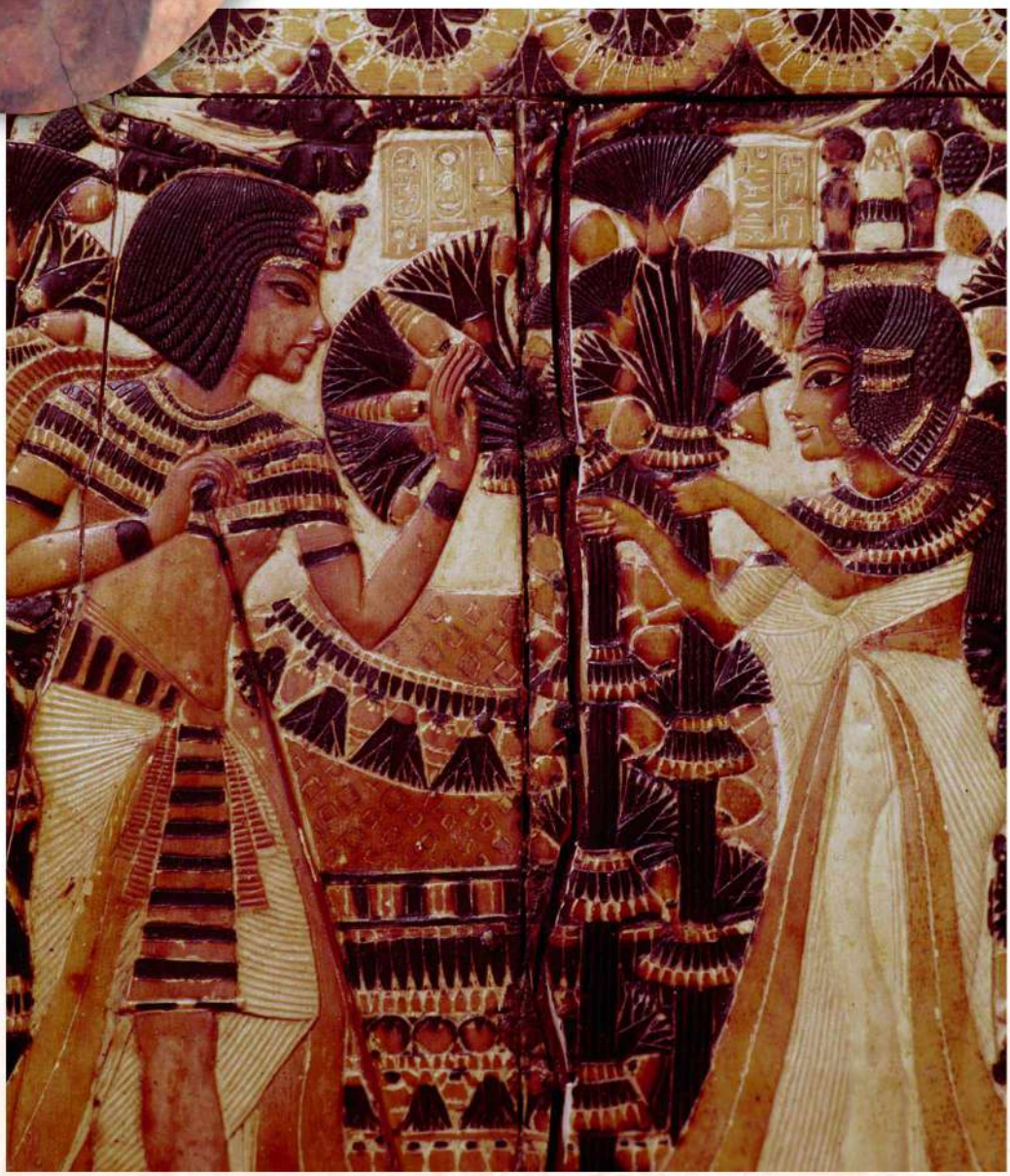
◀ that no one was ever certain who the next king would be because there were such high child mortality rates in those days. Several sons born to the king and queen would probably have been trained in the same way, and then eventually one of them would succeed to the throne. And it wasn't necessarily the eldest son, because he might die before he got to the throne. Tutankhamun probably had an elder brother, but he was trained just in case. And as it turned out, it was he who came to the throne.

Q: How did royal marriages work?

A: Most 'ordinary' Egyptians during the dynastic age only had one husband or wife at a time. But the royal family was different, and the pharaoh had many wives, one of whom was his chief wife. It was his children with the chief wife who usually continued the royal line. In addition, pharaohs also had harems of wives, among them foreign-born princesses who were sent to Egypt to marry the pharaoh and create a bond with their home country. Interestingly, there's no evidence that Egyptian princesses married outside Egypt, probably because Egypt was the dominant nation at the time. We even have letters from foreign kings pleading to be sent an Egyptian bride as a sort of reciprocal bride for the sister or daughter that they had sent to Egypt. But it just didn't happen.

There were also Egyptian-born women in the pharaoh's harem, who, it's to be assumed, were just picked because the king wanted to marry them. We're absolutely certain that pharaohs married their sisters and half-sisters, so there might well have been some of the king's sisters in his harem as well. But sibling marriages weren't compulsory: Tutankhamun, for example, married his sister or half-sister, but his father, Akhenaten, didn't.

There are several theories about why a pharaoh might have chosen to marry his sister. One is that it cut down the number of relations the king had, since he wouldn't have any in-laws; there would be no rival family vying for the



The lid of a casket depicts Tutankhamun in a garden with his wife (and also sister) Ankhesenamun

GETTY IMAGES X5, ALAMY X1

throne. It also meant that the queen would be very loyal to the royal family since it would be her own as well. Plus, she could also be trained for the role from childhood.

The first people who translated texts containing information about pharaohs marrying their sisters tended to be western, strongly Christian, scholars who were very shocked by it and sought explanations for why these marriages took place. They came up with a theory that the kingship, the pharaohship if you like, was passed down through royal women. So to become a true pharaoh of Egypt, you had to marry the heiress who carried this kingship within her. It's a theory that developed because people were so uncomfortable with the idea of intermarriage – but there were plenty of pharaohs who didn't marry their sisters and yet were perfectly successful rulers, so it's not correct.

DID YOU KNOW?

WATERWAY TO GET AROUND

The camel was not used regularly in Egypt until the very end of the dynastic age. Instead, the ancient Egyptians used donkeys as beasts of burden, as well as boats for travelling along the River Nile and its associated canals.

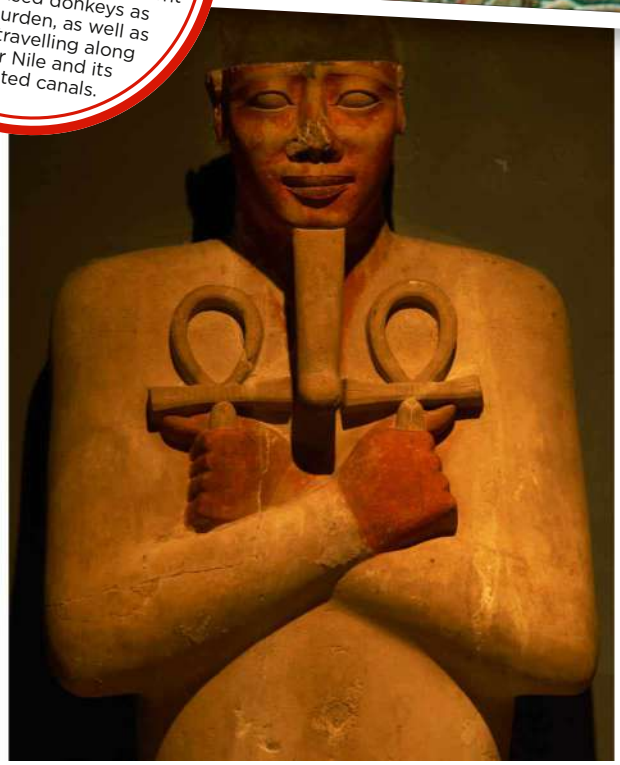
Q: Why are pharaohs usually depicted with a beard?

A: It's something we can see right from the start of the pharaonic age. We have images of Narmer, Egypt's first ruling pharaoh, wearing a false beard; we know it's false because it clips on and is tied to the face. Even the female pharaoh Hatshepsut is depicted wearing a false beard, so it was clearly symbolic and intended as a representation of kingship. Presumably on occasions when they performed rituals, pharaohs would have worn a beard, just as they would have worn a crown, and carried a crook and flail. They were all attributes of kingship and, interestingly they all continued right the way through to the end of the pharaonic age – the Egyptians never really diverged from their original ideal of kingship. It's a system that must have worked very well – even now, with most people unable to read their writing, it's not hard to pick out the figure of the pharaoh in ancient Egyptian art.

Q: What impact could pharaohs have on religion?

A: It's important not to fall into the trap of saying that ancient Egypt had a religion. It was more like a lot of cults coexisting at the same time. There was nothing resembling a Bible or anything similar to that, and there was no religious code that you had to stick to.

But there were state temples with state gods, and these state gods were dependent on the king for regular offerings. Obviously, the pharaoh couldn't make every offering himself, so he had priests who did it for him, but technically he was the head of every religious cult.



ABOVE: **A pillar statue of Senusret I (r1956–1911 BC), complete with the 'beard' associated with images of Egyptian pharaohs**

TOP: **The temples at the Abydos necropolis, where early pharaohs were buried, includes numerous painted panels. Here, an individual is shown worshipping the god Osiris**

Ordinary Egyptians didn't have much to do with this state religion and were more likely to worship local, smaller gods and demigods in their own temples, such as gods associated with childbirth and health. The division between the state temples and the deities worshipped by the ordinary people was pretty big. We shouldn't assume that Egyptians worshipped at the big state temples like Karnak, because they didn't. The king went there, and so did his priests, to make offerings to the gods, but ordinary people only had contact with state gods when those gods processed out of the temples. It was the pharaoh who maintained the relationship with the gods and was responsible for keeping them happy.

Q: Were slaves and servants really buried alive in the pyramids alongside their deceased pharaoh, as Hollywood would often have us believe?

A: No. Certainly, a lot of people were involved in building the pyramids, but it was a type of national service; they were summoned from villages and towns all over Egypt. They went to the pyramid building site, worked on the pyramid for perhaps three or four months and then went home again and another batch of people came in to take their place. There was a stage before the pyramid building, right at the beginning of the dynastic age, when pharaohs were buried at a place called the Abydos. And we can see that, round the royal mudbrick tombs, there were people who seem to have been buried at the same time as the king, because the burials have the same roof. So, it's possible that very early in the pharaonic age, some kings were buried with retainers who might have either been killed or who killed themselves to accompany the king on his journey to the afterlife. But this was a very short-lived phenomenon and certainly, by the time you get to the age of the pyramids, there's no suggestion at all that was still happening.

INTERVIEW: EMILY BRIFFETT

WORDS: CHARLOTTE HODGMAN

JOYCE TYLDESLEY is professor of Egyptology at the University of Manchester. Her latest book, *Tutankhamun – Pharaoh, Icon, Enigma: Ten Tales of Egypt's Enduring King*, is due to be published by Headline on 27 October

EGYPT'S MOST POWERFUL WOMEN

Men weren't the only people to help shape one of the most remarkable civilisations of the ancient world

SOBEKNEFERU

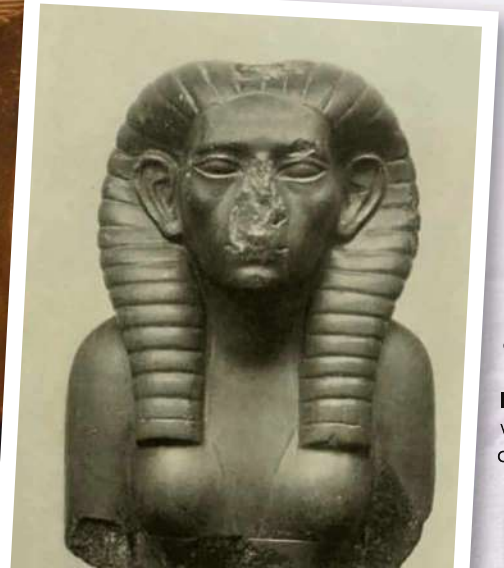
ruled 1777–1773 BC

▼ Though it has been proposed that women did rule Egypt before the 12th Dynasty, Sobekneferu was the first female pharaoh of ancient Egypt to be confirmed by archaeological evidence.

Among a small collection of surviving sources to bear her name and royal titles is a cylindrical seal made of steatite, now housed in the British Museum. She acceded to rule at the end of the 12th Dynasty, after the death of her brother, Amenemhat IV, who died without a suitable male heir.

Unlike Hatshepsut – a woman who later adopted the appearance of a traditional male king (*see opposite page*) – Sobekneferu alternated traditional female clothing with royal attire and regalia, creating a composite gender image that can be seen in her few surviving statues. It has been suggested that the pharaoh may have used this deliberate ambiguity as a way to combat critics of her position based on her sex.

Though very little is known about Sobekneferu's nearly four-year rule, some experts believe that she oversaw the building of a pyramid in Mazghuna, in the northern region of modern Egypt.



LEFT: **A headless bust of Sobekneferu, now on display at the Louvre Museum in Paris**

BELOW: **The only known statue of Sobekneferu with the head intact was destroyed during World War II – only photographs remain**

A Baroque painting depicts Cleopatra allowing herself to be bitten by a poisonous snake – a story that may be ctional

CLEOPATRA

ruled 51–30 BC

▲ The ruler known to history simply as 'Cleopatra' was actually the seventh queen of that name. Like Nefertiti (*see opposite page*), Cleopatra's modern reputation is dominated by myths of her great beauty, but there is also much evidence to suggest that she was highly intelligent, a skilled scholar and a shrewd politician; she was the first Ptolemaic ruler to learn Egyptian in addition to Greek, and she spoke seven other languages.

At the age of 18, she was made co-regent with her brother Ptolemy XIII, at a time when the capital Alexandria was a thriving cultural centre. Soon, Cleopatra had become the dominant ruler and courted Roman support for her regime, leading to her famed relationships with Roman statesman Julius Caesar and, later, Roman general Mark Antony; she had children by both men. During her rule, she built wealth and resources, and displayed political acumen to consolidate her power. Though after Caesar's assassination, opposing Roman powers would prove too strong.

Cleopatra died in 30 BC after defeat at the battle of Actium the previous year, with some stories claiming that she chose to be bitten by a poisonous snake rather than face humiliation and mistreatment at the hands of the victorious Octavian, the future Roman Emperor Augustus. It's one of many myths that surround Cleopatra's legacy, though what's surely certain is that she was much more than the lascivious beauty depicted in Roman propaganda.

GETTY IMAGES X5, ALAMY X1, MUSÉE DU LOUVRE X1, BERLIN EGYPTIAN MUSEUM X1

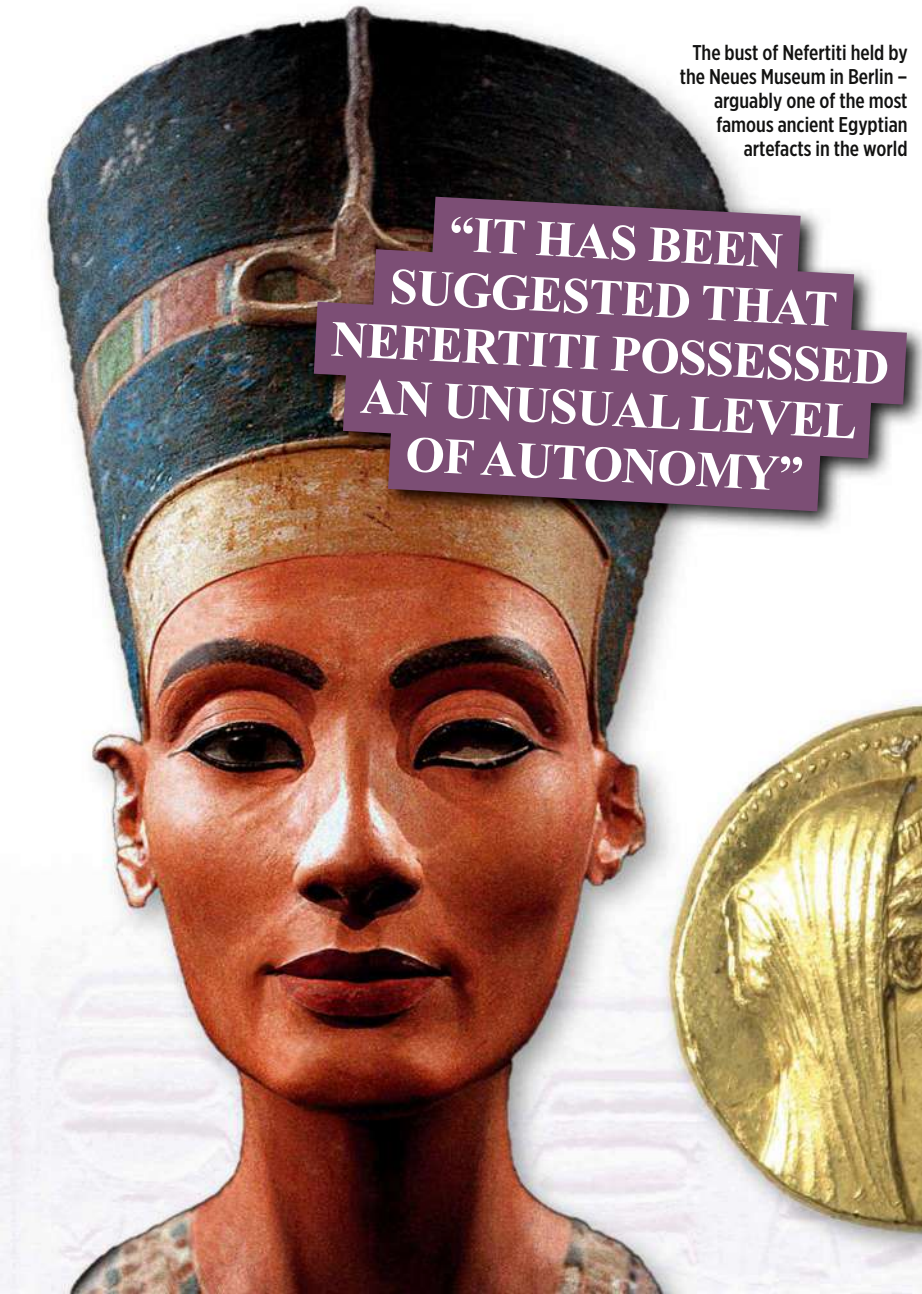
NEFERTITI

queen of Akhenaten, who ruled 1352–1336 BC

▼ One of the most familiar faces of ancient Egypt, the 14th-century BC bust of Nefertiti shown below (now residing in Neues Museum in Berlin) has led to her reputation as a figure of ancient glamour and beauty. But some experts also believe that Nefertiti wielded the same kingly powers as her husband, Akhenaten (*see page 51*), and may even have succeeded him as the sole ruler after his death.

Her high position in Akhenaten's court ran alongside radical religious reform, as Akhenaten and Nefertiti sought to divert the polytheistic religious practices of 14th-century BC Egypt, instead promoting the worship of a single god: the sun disk, called the Aten. Due to depictions of Nefertiti making offerings to the Aten without her husband, it has been suggested that she possessed an unusual level of autonomy.

For many years, it was widely accepted that Nefertiti had died as Akhenaten's queen. But recent interpretations of inscriptions on Akhenaten's tomb, and of jewellery found in the tomb of Tutankhamun that had been made for his (alleged) father Akhenaten's co-ruler, have led some scholars to conclude that Nefertiti was a shortened version of a co-ruler called Neferneferuaten, who ruled for several years in their own right after Akhenaten's death.



The bust of Nefertiti held by the Neues Museum in Berlin – arguably one of the most famous ancient Egyptian artefacts in the world

"IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT NEFERTITI POSSESSED AN UNUSUAL LEVEL OF AUTONOMY"

HATSHEPSUT

ruled 1473–1458 BC

◀ With a name that translates as 'foremost of noblewomen', Hatshepsut is one of the most significant female rulers of ancient Egypt. She is often hailed as one of the most politically minded pharaohs and oversaw the construction of some of Egypt's most famous buildings, including the temple of Deir el-Bahri. Historians were unaware of her until the 19th century, as her stepson and successor Thutmose III ordered virtually all traces of her rule to be destroyed.

TAUSRET

ruled 1188–1186 BC

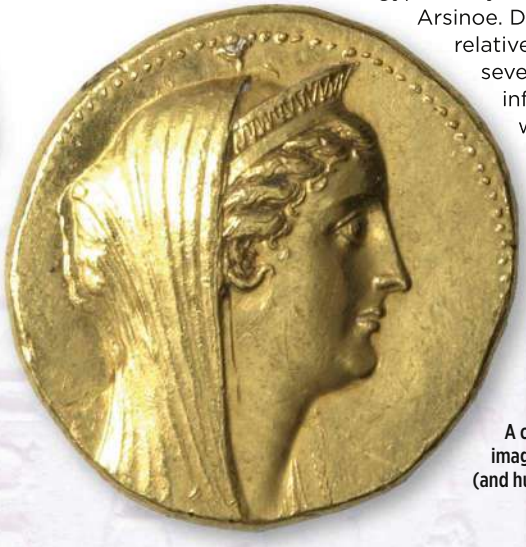
◀ Tausret was the last pharaoh of the 19th Dynasty, and one of only two female rulers thought to have been buried in Egypt's renowned Valley of the Kings, where a cache of jewellery purportedly belonging to her (*including the necklace shown left*) was discovered in 1908. There is evidence to confirm that she was the consort of Pharaoh Sety II, and possibly also a descendant of Ramesses II, placing her high in the ruling class of the time. Artefacts bearing her name have been found as far away as Lebanon, indicating the potential span and impact of her rule.

ARSINOE II

queen of Ptolemy II, who ruled 285–246 BC

▼ When the third-century BC pharaoh Ptolemy II found himself in a need of a queen, he revived an old Egyptian royal tradition by marrying his sister, Arsinoe. Despite only being queen for a relatively short period (around five to seven years), Arsinoe II proved highly influential, and after her death, she was deified by her husband. Statues of Arsinoe II were placed in all of Egypt's major temples so that they could be worshipped alongside the traditional deities, and her cult later flourished in Alexandria during the Roman period.

WORDS: ELINOR EVANS



A coin bearing Arsinoe II's image, issued by her brother (and husband) Ptolemy II

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Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee
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This stunning commemorative stamp features a portrait of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II taken by Dorothy Wilding in 1952, the year of Her Majesty's accession. The Queen can be seen wearing the George IV State Diadem which she also wore to her Coronation. The stamp has been printed with several special ink effects; platinum suprametal, silver hot foil, gloss UV varnish and iridescent ink, to reflect the nature of the occasion.

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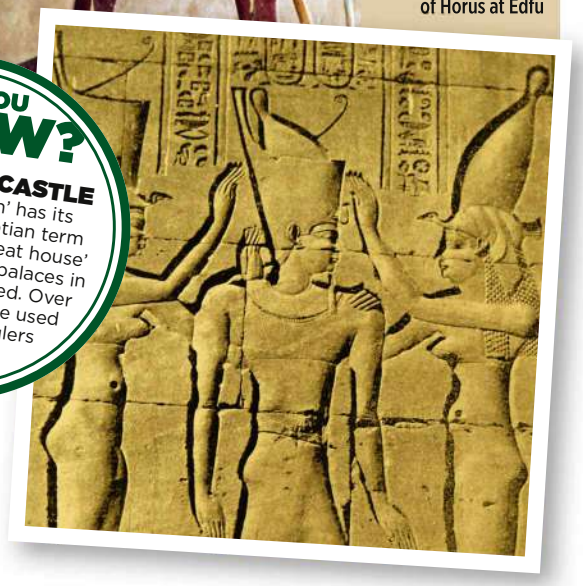


MAIN: **A piece of wall art shows Thutmose III (*right*) presenting an o ering to Horus**

BELOW: **The crowning of Ptolemy VIII, seen in an ornate carving found in the Temple of Horus at Edfu**

DID YOU KNOW?

KING OF THE CASTLE

The title 'pharaoh' has its origins in the Egyptian term *per-aa*, meaning 'great house' – a reference to the palaces in which the rulers lived. Over time, it began to be used to refer to the rulers as well.

LIFE AS A PHARAOH

They ruled over ancient Egypt and were immortalised by their tombs and statues, but what was life really like at the top?

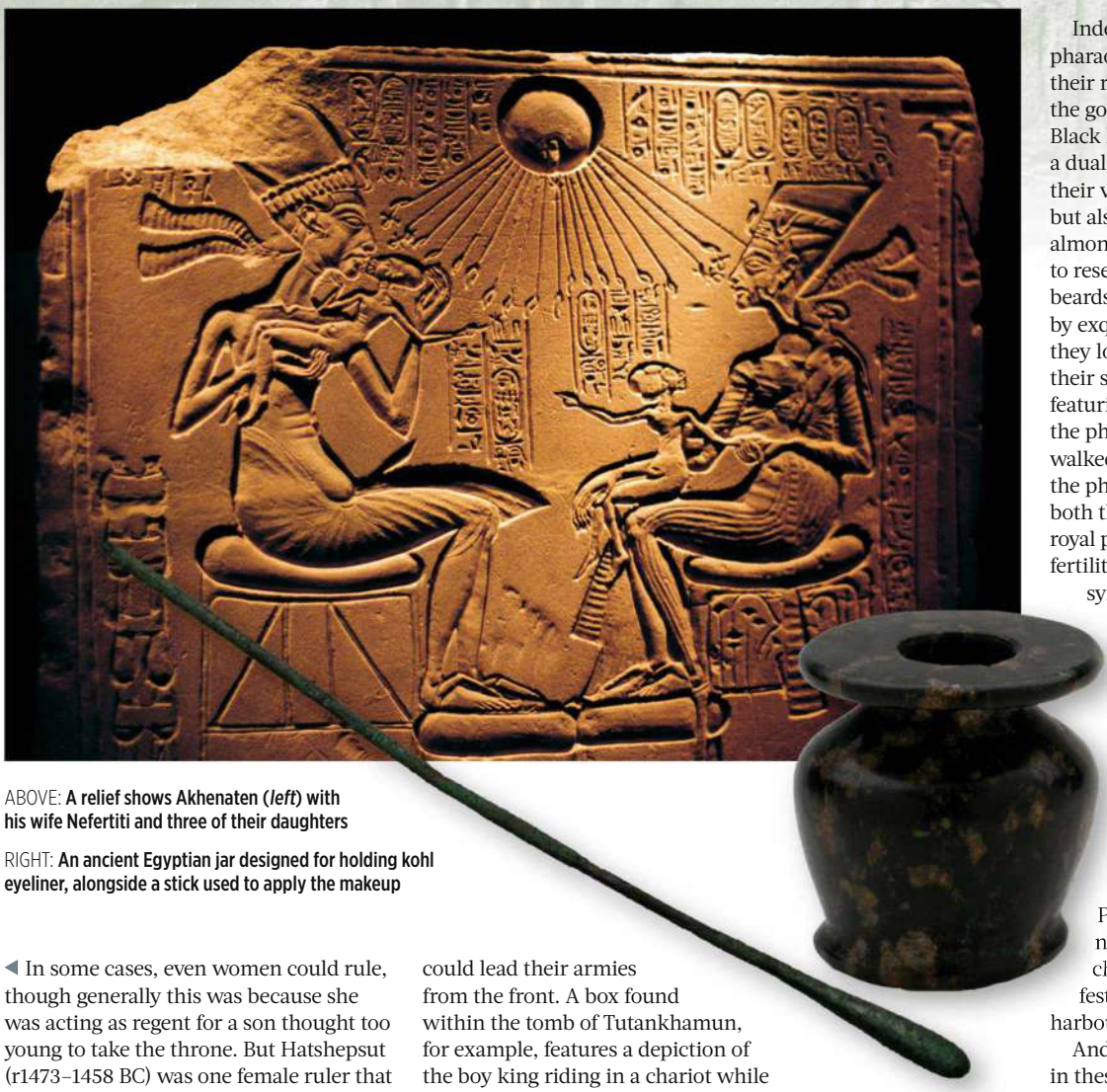
One of the most important distinctions between the pharaohs of ancient Egypt and other rulers throughout history is that the pharaohs were revered as gods, and this meant they were treated as such. The pharaoh was truly believed to be an incarnation of the god Horus, and they were therefore seen as a spiritual link between the ordinary Egyptian people and their deities.

Thus, from the moment they became pharaoh, their rule was celebrated with great fanfare, with the festivities celebrating their coronation lasting for an entire year. After the pharaoh had attended the burial of their predecessor, there would be elaborate feasts, offerings to the gods, and grand processions down the River Nile.

A further celebration would eventually occur around the 30th year of their rule (assuming they made it that far), known as the Sed festival. This would commemorate the continued rule of the pharaoh and renew both the spiritual and physical energy of their reign. The pharaoh would normally wear an animal tail attached to their kilt during the festivities, and would have to run laps to prove their fitness to rule. After the first Sed festival, the celebrations would be repeated every three years or so.

Of course, to ensure that their dynasty flourished, pharaohs would be expected to marry, and this would often be to a close relative in order to keep the royal bloodline pure. The pharaoh could have multiple wives, but only one would be the 'great wife' or queen consort, and it was the children of this spouse that would take precedence as heirs. Having plenty of partners sometimes led to pharaohs having a startlingly high number of offspring: Ramesses II (r1279–1213 BC), for example, is believed to have had at least eight official wives and fathered more than 100 children. ▶

GETTY IMAGES X3



ABOVE: **A relief shows Akhenaten (*left*) with his wife Nefertiti and three of their daughters**

RIGHT: **An ancient Egyptian jar designed for holding kohl eyeliner, alongside a stick used to apply the makeup**

◀ In some cases, even women could rule, though generally this was because she was acting as regent for a son thought too young to take the throne. But Hatshepsut (r1473–1458 BC) was one female ruler that bucked this trend. Hatshepsut took on the title of pharaoh rather than queen, as well as other traditions normally reserved for male rulers, including wearing masculine clothing. She commanded the same respect and treatment as her father Thutmose I and husband Thutmose II had before her.

CULTIVATING AN IMAGE

At every stage of their rule, the pharaoh would be well tended to. Upon waking each morning, they would be cleaned, groomed and dressed by their many servants. In fact, they would barely have a moment alone as their every need was catered for. They didn't even need to physically exert themselves, either, as they would be carried around on a chair.

Much of the pharaoh's time would be spent greeting ambassadors, being updated by royal officials on their latest building projects and discussing military issues with generals. If it all got too much, duties could be delegated to the pharaoh's main advisors, known as viziers. But it wasn't necessarily all luxury: like many rulers, the pharaoh was expected to be a fierce warrior who could lead their armies from the front. A box found within the tomb of Tutankhamun, for example, features a depiction of the boy king riding in a chariot while attacking the Nubians.

"IF IT ALL GOT TOO MUCH, DUTIES COULD BE DELEGATED TO THE PHARAOH'S VIZIERS"

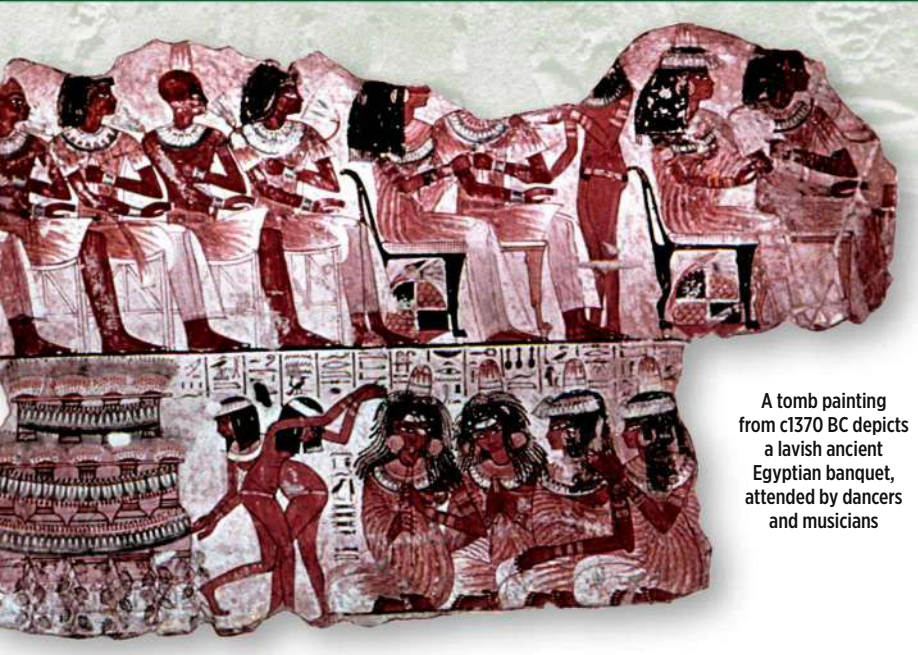
Indeed, image was everything for the pharaoh, as when they were dressed in their royal regalia, the people believed the gods were speaking through them. Black kohl eyeliner was worn, which had a dual purpose – not only to help protect their vision from the glare of the sun, but also to invoke Ra and Horus, as the almond-shaped makeup was thought to resemble their eyes. Wigs and fake beards would also be worn, followed by exquisite golden jewellery to ensure they looked the part. Even the soles of their sandals were decorated, sometimes featuring an image of Egypt's enemies, so the pharaoh would 'crush' them as they walked. Similarly, artistic depictions of the pharaoh would show them holding both the crook and flail – symbols of royal power. The flail represented the fertility of the land, while the crook symbolised kingship and the pharaoh as a shepherd of his people.

But their power was also represented in their homes, which would exude style and splendour. The city of Memphis, for instance, had many grand palaces – some of which had their own lakes and parks. Amenhotep III (r1390–1352 BC) also commissioned a complex known today as the Malkata Palace on the west bank of the Nile, near Thebes. This had audience chambers, private apartments, a festival hall and even an artificial harbour nearby.

And when they held great banquets in these palaces, the pharaoh would eat exceptionally well. Beef, goose and antelope could be on the menu, despite meat often being hard to come by for most ordinary Egyptians. Wine was also a speciality, reserved only for the elite.

ABOVE: **An intricate panel found within the tomb of Tutankhamun shows the young pharaoh crushing his enemies** RIGHT: **The Great Temple at Abu Simbel, which was built for Ramesses II**

GETTY IMAGES X8



A tomb painting from c1370 BC depicts a lavish ancient Egyptian banquet, attended by dancers and musicians

HONOURING THE GODS

As well as ruling over civil and military matters, the pharaoh also held the position of high priest. It was their responsibility to maintain ma'at – the divine order and justice of the land (personified by a goddess named Ma'at) – as well as to commission temples to honour the gods.

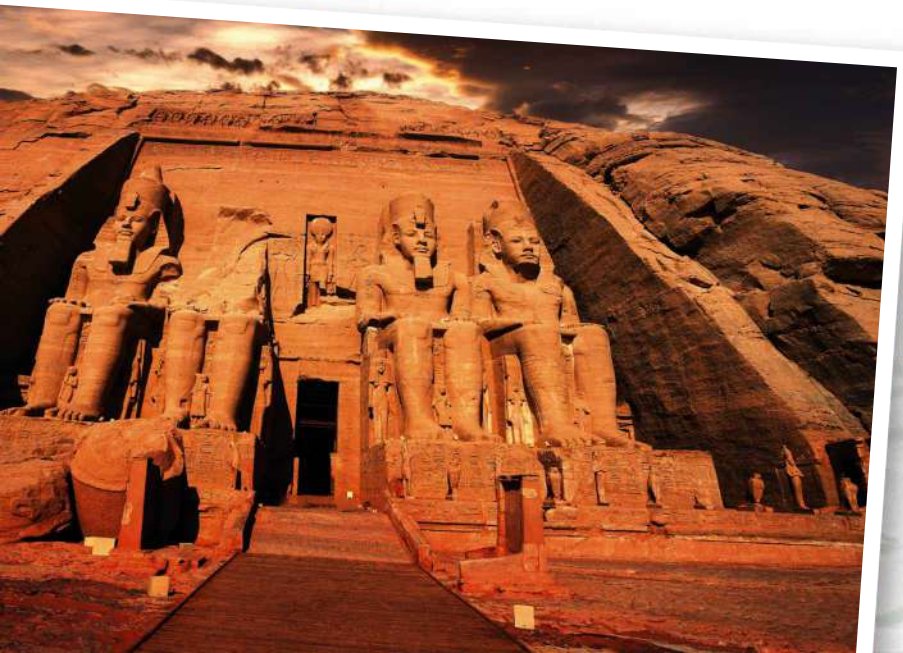
Ramesses II built more temples and monuments than any other pharaoh, including a famous temple at Abu Simbel dedicated to both himself and the gods Ra-Horakhty, Amun-Ra and Ptah. Unlike modern churches, mosques and temples, ancient Egyptian temples weren't for communal worship and only the pharaoh could make an offering to the gods and carry out rituals there.

In total, the ancient Egyptians are known to have worshipped more than 1,000 gods and goddesses, but when Amenhotep IV came to power in 1352 BC, he attempted to bring in monotheism – the belief in a single supreme deity. He changed his name to Akhenaten to honour the Aten, who he saw as the one true god. This didn't last, however, and the Egyptians soon went back to their many deities.

Although it may seem morbid by modern standards, the afterlife was always at the forefront of the ancient Egyptians' minds, and an important task for any pharaoh was to commission their own tomb. They were revered as much in death as on Earth, and therefore their body needed to be preserved.

The famous Great Pyramid at Giza was built as the final resting place for Khufu (r2589–2566 BC). It was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, and – despite its sheer size – was only built for Khufu and his immediate family. The pharaohs of ancient Egypt certainly had their own unique way of ensuring their legacy lived on.

WORDS: EMMA SLATTERY WILLIAMS



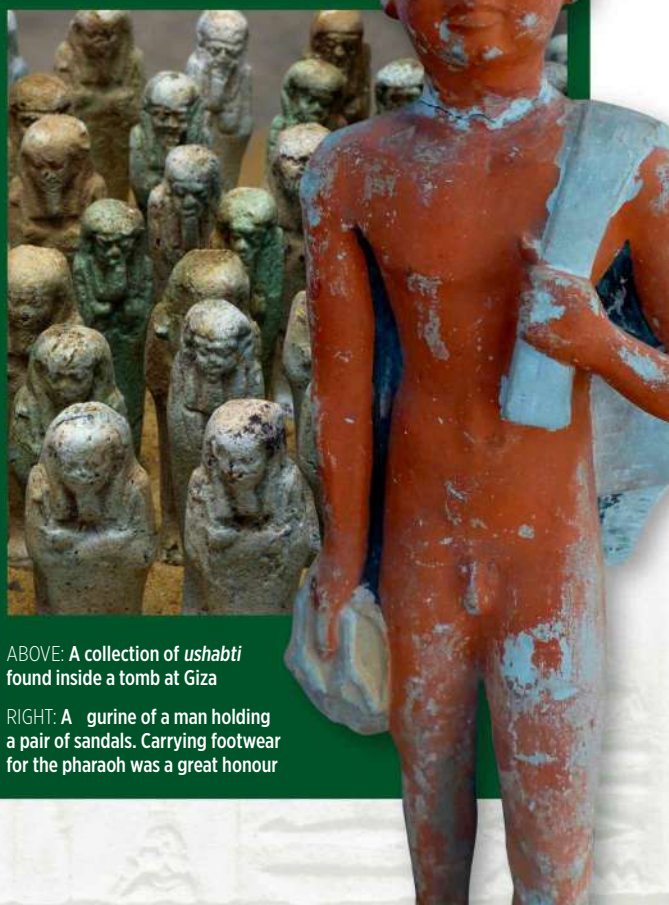
SERVING THE PHARAOH

The rulers of ancient Egypt certainly had plenty of people at their beck and call...

If you worked in the royal household, the role you really wanted was sandal-bearer to the pharaoh. This was one of the most prestigious positions in ancient Egyptian society, as sandal-bearers would accompany the pharaoh on all important royal occasions, and also had the honour of washing the pharaoh's feet. As a result, they were likely privy to a wealth of sensitive information, including the latest court gossip.

In the early days of the pharaohs, it's believed that some servants were sacri ced and buried alongside their ruler so they could continue to serve the deceased in the afterlife – death certainly didn't stop the pharaoh from owning them. However, this practice isn't thought to have lasted very long, and gurines of servants known as *ushabti* were buried alongside the pharaoh instead. They were expected to come to life and serve their king after he had died.

Servants within the royal household didn't have very many rights, but they weren't usually treated too badly, and were allowed to own property. Prisoners of war, however, could be forced into servitude and had no rights at all. Yet ancient Egypt was not like ancient Rome, and slavery was actually quite rare. Indeed, the image that Hollywood has given us of slaves building the pyramids is a falsehood, and it is more likely that people from all over Egypt would have been summoned to undertake these building projects as a form of national service.



ABOVE: A collection of *ushabti* found inside a tomb at Giza

RIGHT: A gurine of a man holding a pair of sandals. Carrying footwear for the pharaoh was a great honour

6 THINGS YOU (PROBABLY) DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT...

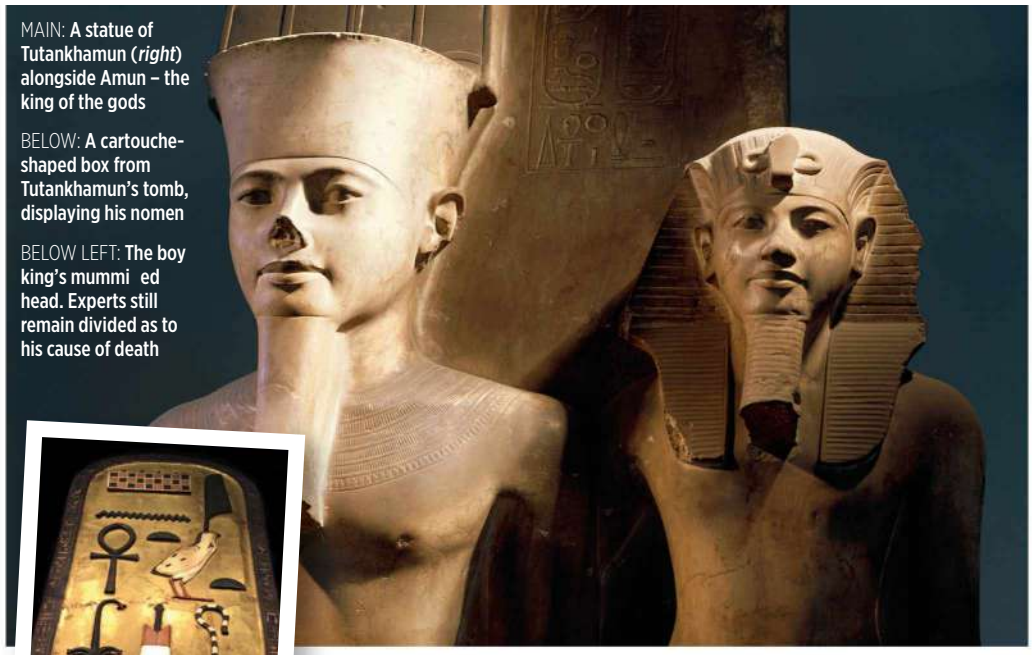
TUTANKHAMUN

Professor Joyce Tyldesley shares some lesser-known facts about the life, death and legacy of Egypt's famous 'boy king'

Tutankhamun was born in c1344 BC, possibly at Amarna, the city of his father, Akhenaten (though Tutankhamun's parentage is hotly disputed). His mummy shows that he died when he was around 18 years old, but the exact cause of his demise is not known. Tutankhamun's body suffered damage at various stages – immediately before or immediately after death; during the curiously hasty mummification process; within the tomb (where a chemical reaction caused it to ignite); and while being extracted from its three coffins in the years following its 1922 discovery by Howard Carter.

Damage to Tutankhamun's chest and legs indicates that the cause of death was accidental – perhaps the result of an injury sustained while riding a chariot or out hunting. Others, meanwhile, have suggested that Tutankhamun may have been murdered or died on the battlefield.

Today, Tutankhamun is ancient Egypt's most famous pharaoh. But how much do you really know about the boy king?



MAIN: **A statue of Tutankhamun (*right*) alongside Amun – the king of the gods**

BELOW: **A cartouche-shaped box from Tutankhamun's tomb, displaying his nomen**

BELOW LEFT: **The boy king's mummi ed head. Experts still remain divided as to his cause of death**

GETTY IMAGES X6, ALAMY X1

1 HIS ORIGINAL NAME WAS NOT TUTANKHAMUN

Tutankhamun was originally named Tutankhaten. This name, which literally means 'living image of the Aten', reflected the fact that Tutankhaten's parents worshipped a sun god known as 'the Aten'.

After a few years on the throne, the young king changed his religion, abandoned the Aten, and started to worship the god Amun (who was revered as king of the gods). This caused him to change his name to Tutankhamun, or 'living image of Amun'.

Tutankhamun was not, however, the name by which his people knew him. Like all of Egypt's kings, Tutankhamun actually had five royal names. These took the form of short sentences that outlined the focus of his reign. Officially, he was:

(1) Horus Name: Image of births
(2) Two Ladies Name: Beautiful of laws who quells the Two Lands/ who makes content all the gods
(3) Golden Horus Name: Elevated of appearances for the god/his father Ra
(4) Prenomen: Nebkheperure
(5) Nomen: Tutankhamun

His last two names, known today as the prenomen and the nomen, are the names that we see written in cartouches (oval loops) on his monuments. We know him by his nomen, Tutankhamun. His people, however, knew him by his prenomen, Nebkheperure, which literally translates as "[the sun god] Ra is the lord of manifestations".

2 TUTANKHAMUN HAS THE SMALLEST ROYAL TOMB IN THE VALLEY OF THE KINGS

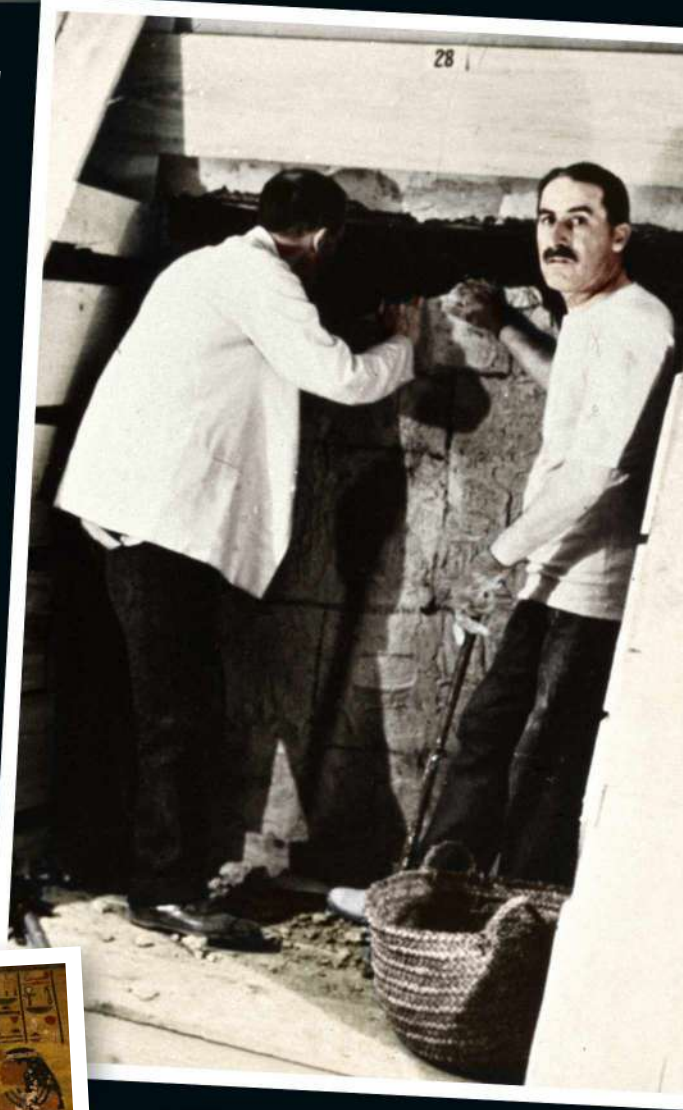
The first pharaohs built highly conspicuous pyramids in Egypt's northern deserts. However, by the time of the New Kingdom (1550–1069 BC), this fashion had ended. Most kings were now buried in relative secrecy in rock-cut tombs tunnelled into the Valley of the Kings on the west bank of the Nile at the southern city of Thebes (modern-day Luxor). These tombs had inconspicuous doors but were both spacious and well decorated inside.

Cemeteries carried their own potent magic, and dead kings were thought to have powerful spirits that might benefit others. Being buried among his ancestors would have helped Tutankhamun to achieve his own afterlife. It therefore seems likely that Tutankhamun would have wished to be buried in a splendid tomb in either the main valley or in an offshoot, the Western Valley, where his grandfather, Amenhotep III, was buried. But, whatever he may have intended, we know that Tutankhamun was actually buried in a cramped tomb cut into the floor of the main valley.

It may be that Tutankhamun simply died too young to complete his ambitious plans; his own tomb was unfinished, and so he had to be buried in a substitute, non-royal tomb. However, this seems unlikely, as other kings managed to build suitable tombs in just two or three years. It seems far more likely that Tutankhamun's successor, Ay, a king who inherited the throne as an elderly man, made a strategic swap. Just four years after Tutankhamun's death, Ay himself was buried in a splendid tomb in the Western Valley, close by the tomb of Amenhotep III.

The unexpectedly small size of Tutankhamun's tomb has led to recent suggestions that parts of it are still yet to be uncovered. Specifically, Egyptologists are currently investigating the possibility that there may be secret chambers hidden behind the plastered wall of his burial chamber.

The Valley of the Kings, near the city of Luxor, is known to contain at least 60 tombs



ABOVE: Howard Carter (*right*), who discovered Tutankhamun's tomb in 1922, pictured with a colleague in the Valley of the Kings

LEFT: Painted figures found within the burial chamber of Tutankhamun's successor, Ay

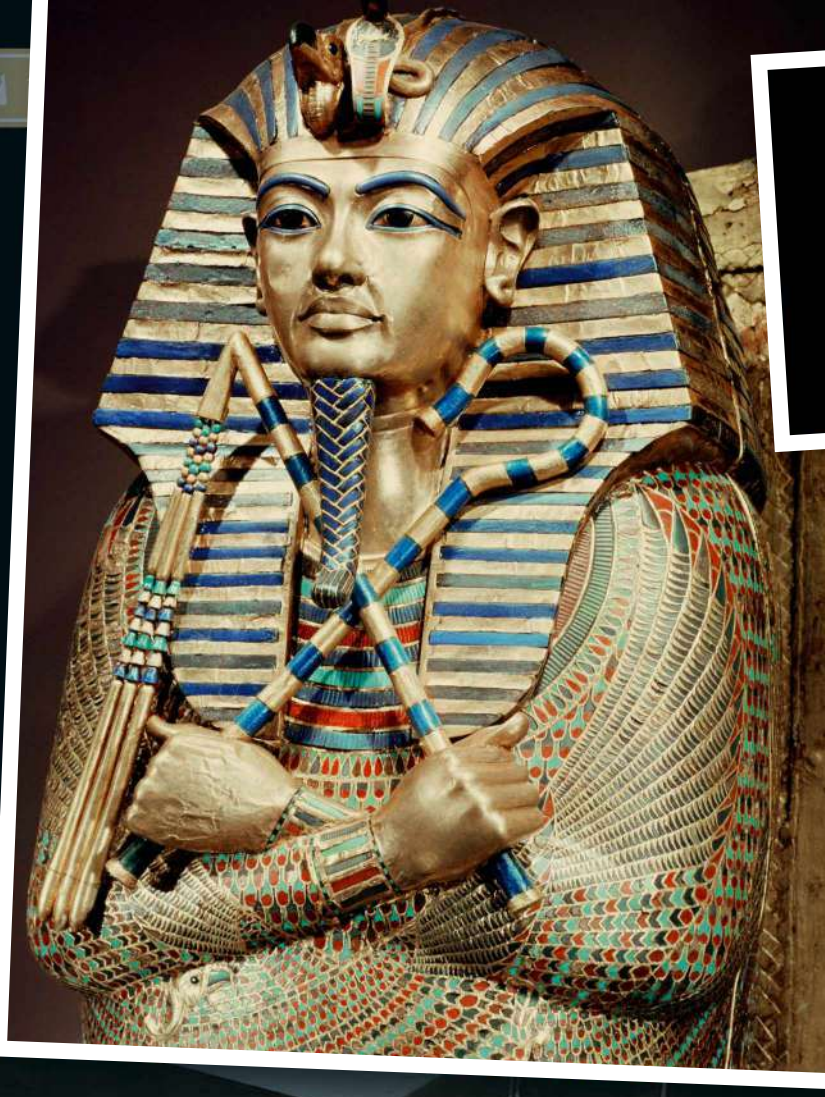
BELOW: Tutankhamun's own burial chamber features similar decorations, but his tomb is much more cramped and modest overall

3 HE WAS BURIED IN A SECOND-HAND COFFIN

Tutankhamun's mummy lay within a nest of three golden coffins, which fitted snugly one inside another like a set of Russian dolls. During the funeral ritual the combined coffins were placed in a rectangular stone sarcophagus. Unfortunately, the outer coffin proved to be slightly too big, and its toes peeked over the edge of the sarcophagus, preventing the lid from closing. Carpenters were quickly summoned and the coffin's toes were cut away. More than 3,000 years later, Howard Carter would find the fragments lying in the base of the sarcophagus.

All three of Tutankhamun's coffins were similar in style: they were 'anthropoid', or human-form coffins, shaped to look like the god of the dead, Osiris, lying on his back and holding the crook and flail in his crossed arms. But the middle coffin had a slightly different style and its face did not look like the faces on other two coffins. Nor did it look like the face on Tutankhamun's death mask. Many Egyptologists now believe that this middle coffin – along with some of Tutankhamun's other grave goods – was originally made for the mysterious 'Neferneferuaten' – an enigmatic individual whose name is recorded in inscriptions and who may have been Tutankhamun's immediate predecessor. We do not know what happened to Neferneferuaten, nor how Tutankhamun came to be buried in his or her coffin.

The innermost coffin was made from thick sheets of beaten gold. This coffin measures 1.88m in length, and weighs 110.4kg. If it were to be scrapped today it would be worth well over £1m.



ABOVE: **The king's middle coffin may have been made for an individual named Neferneferuaten**

LEFT: **A colourised photograph shows Howard Carter inspecting the outer and middle coffins**

A fan found in the king's tomb may o er clues about his death

4 TUTANKHAMUN LOVED TO HUNT OSTRICHES

Tutankhamun's ostrich-feather fan was discovered lying in his burial chamber, close by the king's body. Originally the fan consisted of a long golden handle topped by a semi-circular 'palm' that supported 42 alternating brown and white feathers. These feathers crumbled away long ago, but their story is preserved in writing on the fan handle. This tells us that the feathers were taken from ostriches captured by the king himself while hunting in the desert to the east of Heliopolis (near modern-day Cairo). The embossed scene on the palm shows, on one face, Tutankhamun setting off in his chariot to hunt ostrich, and on the reverse, the king returning in triumph with his prey.

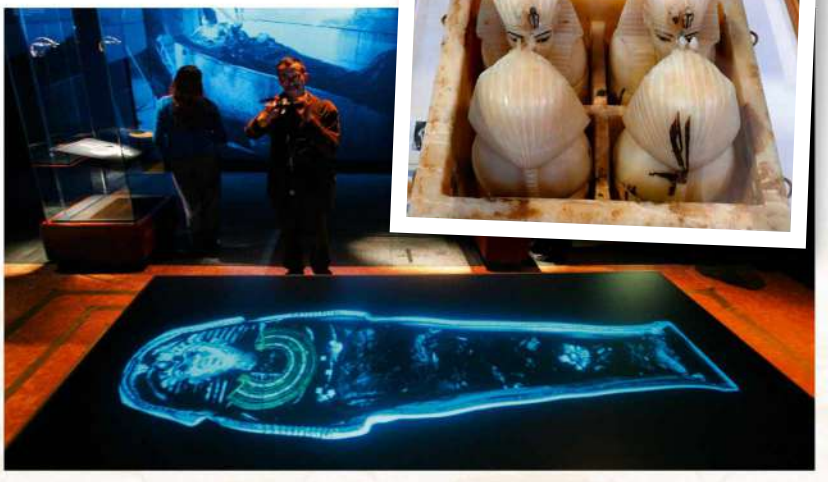
Ostriches were important birds in ancient Egypt, and their feathers and eggs were prized as luxury items. Hunting ostriches was a royal sport that allowed the king to demonstrate his control over nature. It was a substitute for battle and, as such, was a dangerous occupation. We can see that Tutankhamun's body was badly damaged before he was mummified. Is the placement of his ostrich fan so close to his body significant? Is this, perhaps, someone's way of telling us that the young king died following a fatal accident on an ostrich hunt?

5 TUTANKHAMUN'S HEART IS MISSING

The ancient Egyptians believed that it was possible to live again after death but thought that this could only be achieved if the body was preserved in a lifelike condition. This led them to develop the science of artificial mummification.

Essentially, mummification involved desiccating the body in natron salt, then wrapping it in many layers of bandages to preserve a lifelike shape. The body's internal organs were removed at the start of the mummification process and preserved separately. The brain, its function then unknown, was simply thrown away – the heart, rather than the brain, was regarded as the organ of reasoning. As such, the heart would be required in the afterlife. It was therefore left in place and, if accidentally removed, immediately sewn back (though not always in its original location).

Tutankhamun, however, has no heart. Instead he was provided with an amuletic scarab inscribed with a funerary spell. This may have happened simply because the undertakers were careless, but it could also be a sign that Tutankhamun died far from home. By the time his body arrived at the undertakers' workshop, his heart may have been too decayed to be preserved.



Visitors to a London exhibition view an illuminated image of the Tutankhamun's remains (*main*). Although the king's heart is missing, most of his other internal organs were placed inside canopic jars (*inset*)

ABOVE: **Like its silver counterpart, the bronze trumpet is engraved with images of the gods Ra, Ptah and Amun**

LEFT: **Both trumpets were played live on BBC radio in 1939**

6 HIS TRUMPETS HAVE ENTERTAINED AN AUDIENCE OF MORE THAN 150 MILLION

Tutankhamun's grave goods included a small collection of musical instruments: one pair of ivory clappers, two sistra (rattles) and two trumpets, one made from silver with a gold mouthpiece and the other made of bronze partially overlaid by gold. This would not have made a very satisfactory orchestra, and it seems that music was not high on Tutankhamun's list of priorities for his afterlife. In fact, his trumpets should more properly be classified as military equipment, while his clappers and sistra are likely to have had a ritual purpose.

On 16 April 1939, the two trumpets were played in a BBC live radio broadcast from Cairo Museum, which reached an estimated 150 million listeners. Bandsman James Tappern used a modern mouthpiece, which caused damage to the silver trumpet. In 1941 the bronze trumpet was played again, this time without a modern mouthpiece.

Some, influenced by the so-called myth of 'Tutankhamun's curse', have claimed that the trumpets have the power to summon war. They have suggested that it was the 1939 broadcast which caused Britain to enter World War II.

JOYCE TYLDESLEY is professor of Egyptology at the University of Manchester. Her latest book, *Tutankhamun – Pharaoh, Icon, Enigma: Ten Tales of Egypt's Enduring King*, is due to be published by Headline on 27 October

GETTY IMAGES X4, ALAMY X3

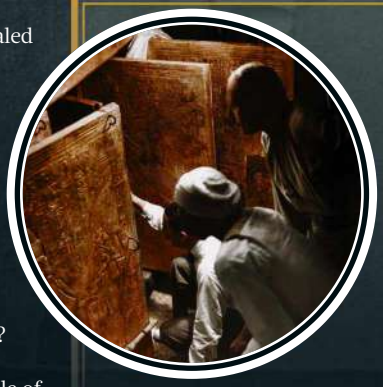
THE TOMB OF THE BOY KING

The discovery of Tutankhamun's final resting place, in 1922, remains one of history's greatest finds

On 26 November 1922, as he stood before a sealed doorway beneath the Egyptian desert, British Egyptologist Howard Carter could only imagine what treasures lay within. Seal impressions on the tomb's – now dismantled – outer door had already revealed that this was none other than the much-searched-for tomb of the 18th Dynasty pharaoh Tutankhamun, but would it be intact? Making a breach in the door, Carter peered into the room beyond. A jumble of treasures and precious objects greeted his eyes, but most significant of all was a sealed doorway, set between two sentinel statues: the final resting place of the boy king.

It had taken Carter and his team years to find the tomb and it was to take a further two and a half months to clear and catalogue their way to the burial chamber itself. Finally, on 12 February 1924, the heavy granite lid of the quartzite sarcophagus was lifted, beneath which was a nest of three coffins, and the 3,300-year-old mummy of Tutankhamun. The search was over.

WORDS: CHARLOTTE HODGMAN



THE TOMB

Although Tutankhamun's tomb was discovered much later than those of other ancient Egyptian pharaohs, the burial chamber itself remained untouched. It's thought that the tomb was robbed at least twice in the months that followed the pharaoh's burial, with perishable items such as perfumes and oils stolen. As time went on, its entrance became covered by stone debris from other tomb-building projects nearby.

ANTECHAMBER

The first room to be entered was the antechamber, which contained a wealth of objects, from chariot pieces to funeral beds. A small, roughly cut doorway in the wall led to an adjoining annex, which contained more items that the king was believed to need in the afterlife.

ENTRANCE

The tomb's entrance was discovered beneath the remains of workers' huts, with 16 steps leading down into the first corridor.

TREASURE TROVE

More than 5,000 artefacts were found in Tutankhamun's tomb – from furniture and chariots to weapons and clothes. Here are some of our favourites...

1: **A mummy bandage from Tutankhamun's embalming cache** 2: **Board game made of painted ivory** 3: **Gilded wooden bed, one of several found in the tomb** 4: **Pair of golden sandals found on the feet of Tutankhamun's mummy** 5: **Gilded wooden chariot, one of six found in the tomb**

SOL90 IMAGES X1, GETTY IMAGES X6, ALAMY X3

TUTANKHAMUN'S MUMMY

The pharaoh's mummified body was encased in three coffins. The largest coffin proved too big for the stone sarcophagus, so its toes were cut away. The wood shavings left by the carpenters were found by Carter more than 3,000 years later.

TREASURY

Guarded by a statue of the god Anubis, the Treasury held the canopic shrine, in which were stored the jars that contained the pharaoh's organs: liver, lungs, stomach and intestines. His heart, however, was missing (*see page 45*).

BURIAL CHAMBER

Tutankhamun's sarcophagus was enclosed by four gilded wood shrines, each smaller than the last. Each had to be dismantled before Carter and his team could reach the pharaoh's final resting place.

BIG NUMBERS

8–9
The age Tutankhamun is thought to have been when he ascended the throne

5,398
The total number of items found in the tomb

130
The number of walking sticks buried with Tutankhamun. Scans have revealed that he had a bent foot, but experts are divided as to whether he actually walked with a limp.

3
The number of coffins within the sarcophagus, stacked one inside the other like Russian dolls

10
The weight, in kilograms, of Tutankhamun's golden death mask (22lbs)

ENSURING A LEGACY

From temples to tombs, bigger was de nitely better in the eyes of the pharaohs and their gods

WORDS: RHIANNON DAVIES

DID YOU KNOW?

ON THE MOVE

In 1968, construction of the Aswan High Dam saw the temples at Abu Simbel dismantled and relocated to a desert plateau 64 metres (about 200ft) above and 180 metres (600ft) west of their original site to save them from being flooded.

KARNAK

◀ This temple complex in the city of Thebes is famously home to the temple of Amun, a god who was almost universally honoured by pharaohs. Scores of Egyptian rulers expanded the temple, with Sety I and Ramesses II building and decorating the Great Hypostyle Hall – the inscribed pillars of which are shown left.

RAMESSEUM

▶ Built by Ramesses II, this mortuary temple was meant to be a staggering site at Thebes. Featuring a 17-metre-tall statue of Ramesses, the temple's walls were carved with his military achievements. However, time hasn't been kind to the temple and much of it has crumbled, with remnants littering the ground.

THE GIZA NECROPOLIS

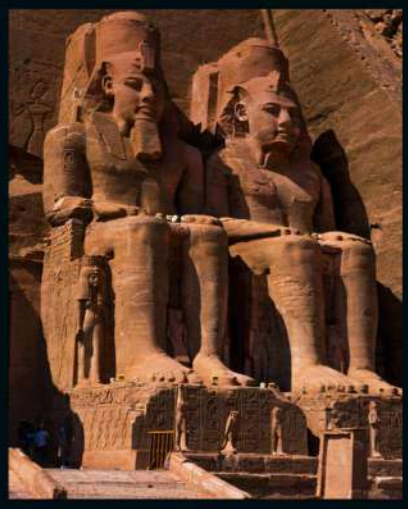
◀ Constructed as tombs for the pharaohs Khufu, Khafre and Menkaure, the pyramids of Giza are one of the de ning images of ancient Egypt. Khufu's pyramid (known as the Great Pyramid) is the biggest and oldest of the three, originally stretching 147 metres into the air.

The three pyramids have been extensively looted, with thieves even stripping the outer layers of limestone. This has knocked several metres off the Great Pyramid's height.

TEMPLE OF HATSHEPSUT

▶ Queen Hatshepsut was determined to make her reign seem as impressive as possible, and the intricately decorated mortuary temple she commissioned at Deir el-Bahri certainly helped her achieve this.

It was styled after Mentuhotep II's mortuary temple – a smaller complex that's located right next door. Although parts of the building were defaced by her successor, Thutmose III, it certainly remained an imposing site.



ABU SIMBEL

◀ This image shows two of the four 20-metre-tall statues of Ramesses II that frame the main temple of Abu Simbel, which is dedicated to the dei ed king and the gods Ra-Horakhty, Amun-Ra and Ptah. Hewn from a sandstone cliff, the imposing temples were lost until 1813.

SAQQARA

▶ This huge necropolis in Memphis is the resting place of high-ranking Egyptians stretching back to the days before the nation became one united land. However, Saqqara is most famous for the Step Pyramid (*pictured*), commissioned by Djoser and built from blocks of stone. ⊙

GETTY IMAGES X8

THE MEN WHO RULED ANCIENT EGYPT

You've heard of King Tutankhamun, but do you know the stories of these six other notable male rulers?

THUTMOSE III

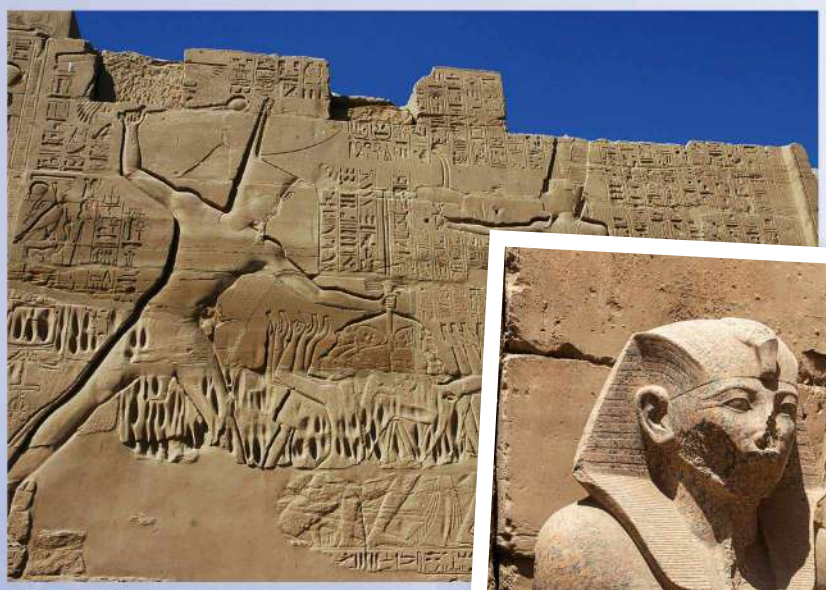
ruled 1479–1425 BC

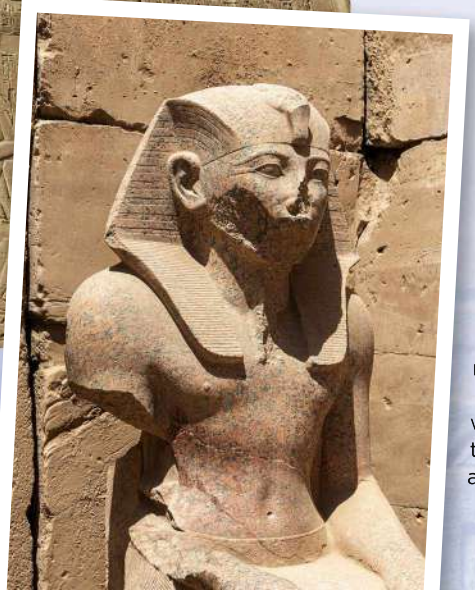
▼ Dubbed 'the Napoleon of Egypt' by Egyptologists, Thutmose was a military powerhouse. He started training in the arts of war as a youth, when his stepmother Hatshepsut (*see page 37*) was ruling Egypt as his co-regent. After her death in 1458 BC he came to sole power and put his military know-how to use.

Thutmose expanded Egypt's empire further than ever before, winning 17 campaigns. To the north, he seized Syria; his troops also campaigned in Nubia (an ancient north African province). Here they crushed tribes and put many to work in the region's gold mines – with the profits lining Egypt's coffers.

With the wealth from these mines and Tribute sent by the peoples Thutmose had conquered, the pharaoh was able to splash out on an ambitious building programme. He extended the principal temple at Karnak dedicated to Amun, king of the gods at this time, adorning the site with imposing granite obelisks, and erected more than 50 temples. He was also a keen hunter, taking on elephants and lions.

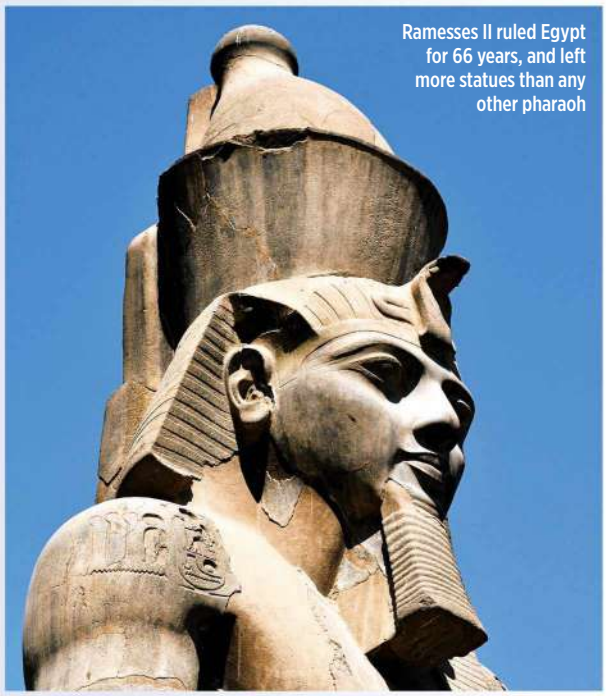
In his twilight years, Thutmose made his son Amenhotep II his co-regent. After dying in his mid-fifties he was interred in the Valley of the Kings, with his mummy being discovered in 1889.





ABOVE: **An exterior wall of the Great Hypostyle Hall, Karnak, shows Thutmose III smiting his enemies in battle**

RIGHT: **A seated statue of Thutmose III in the Festival Hall – another section of the Karnak temple complex**



Ramesses II ruled Egypt for 66 years, and left more statues than any other pharaoh

RAMESSES II

ruled 1279–1213 BC

▲ Ramesses II is remembered as one of Egypt's most powerful rulers of the New Kingdom – an assessment the prideful pharaoh would no doubt agree with. He became Egypt's ruler after his father Sety I died in 1279 BC, although this wasn't his first taste of power: at 14 he'd been named prince regent and served in his father's military campaigns.

During his 66-year rule he focused on warmongering, determined to restore Egypt's lost lands. He built forts on Egypt's border with Libya and frequently clashed with the Hittites (an Anatolian empire). For instance, in 1275 BC he took on the Hittites in a huge chariot battle to try and conquer the Syrian city of Kadesh. Although Ramesses presented the battle as a huge victory – boasting "their hearts quaked with fear when they saw me" – in reality, it ended with a truce.

However, it's for his building works that Ramesses is perhaps best remembered. Many kings commissioned statues of themselves, but Ramesses took this to the extreme, ordering more than any other ruler in Egypt's history. He also built scores of temples and even an entire royal city, called Pi-Ramesses.

Notably, Ramesses is known for taking multiple wives and keeping a harem of 200 women. By the time of his death at the age of 90, he had allegedly sired more than 100 children.

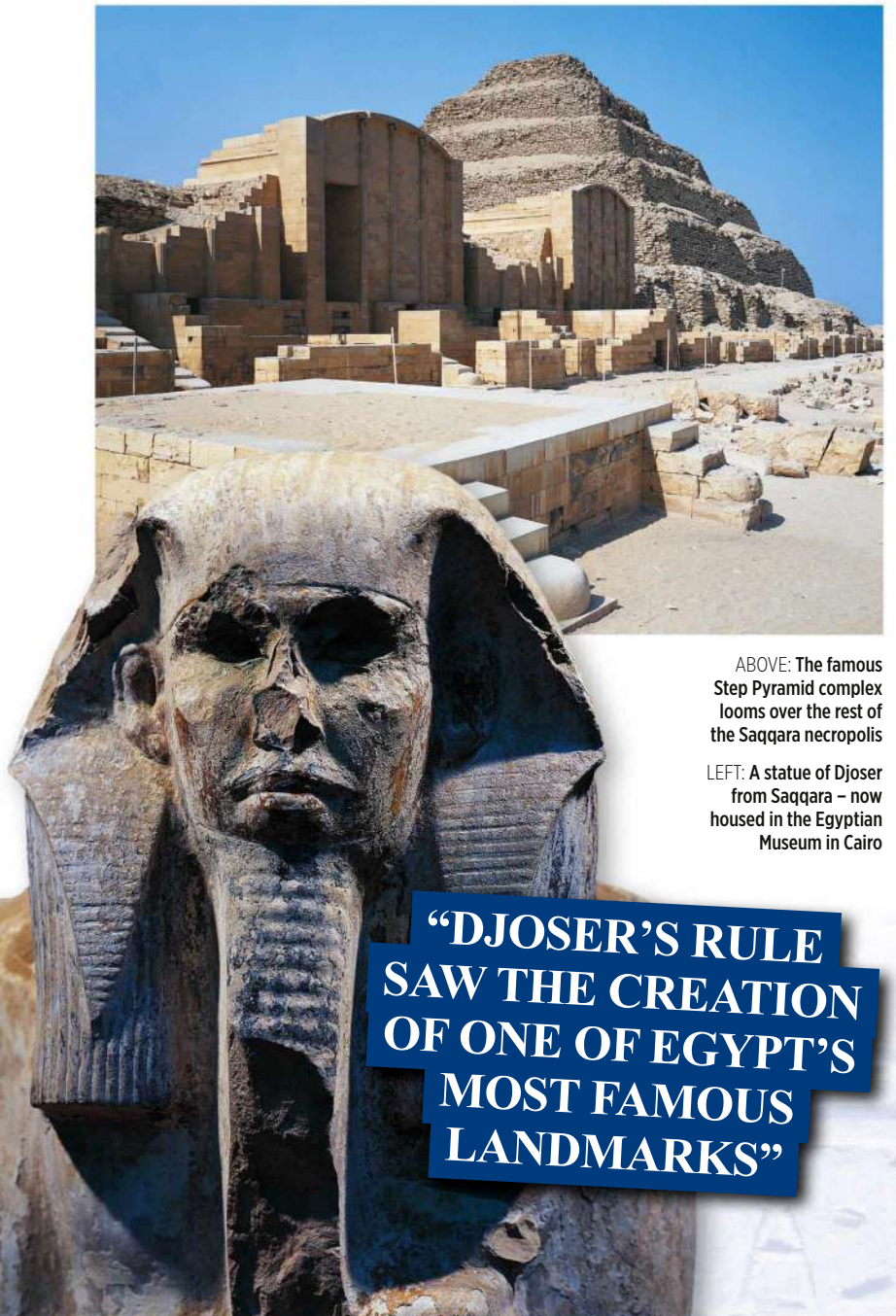
DJOSER
ruled 2667–2648 BC

▼ Djoser's rule saw the creation at Saqqara of one of Egypt's most famous landmarks: this sprawling necropolis, which dates back to Predynastic times, is home to the Step Pyramid, a monumental structure that was the first of its kind to be built in history.

Constructed solely from stone, Saqqara marked a radical departure from previous building works in Egypt, which typically also incorporated mud bricks. The shape of the buildings was different, too, with stepped pyramids replacing flat-roofed royal tombs. These radical designs were the brainchild of Imhotep, one of Djoser's advisors.

Before the pharaoh constructed the Step Pyramid, he won the admiration of the Egyptians for rebuilding the Temple of Khnum (the god of the Nile).

Djoser also made history as the first pharaoh to make Memphis his permanent and only home. This helps explain why the city became the beating heart of the Old Kingdom. He lived there with his wife (and likely his half-sister), Hetephernebti, who seems to have been his only wife.



ABOVE: **The famous Step Pyramid complex looms over the rest of the Saqqara necropolis**

LEFT: **A statue of Djoser from Saqqara – now housed in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo**

"DJOSER'S RULE SAW THE CREATION OF ONE OF EGYPT'S MOST FAMOUS LANDMARKS"

AMENHOTEP III
ruled 1390–1352 BC

◀ Ruling in a time of relative peace, Amenhotep made sure the empire prospered – economically and culturally. He worked to build strong trade relations, using clay tablets to communicate with the leaders of nearby kingdoms in what are history's earliest diplomatic letters. He also distributed more than 200 stone scarabs inscribed with five of the biggest events from the first 12 years of his rule, and erected various temples and statues. His seven children by his chief queen included Akhenaten, his successor (*see below*).

AKHENATEN
ruled 1352–1336 BC

◀ The Egyptians venerated a pantheon of gods, but Akhenaten believed there was only one deity who should be worshipped, a sun god known as the Aten – and that his subjects should follow suit. In 1346 BC he created a new capital, dedicated to the Aten, at Amarna. His wife, Nefertiti (*see page 37*), is often depicted acting alongside him and supporting him in these beliefs. After Akhenaten's death, however, Egypt soon returned to its original way of worship.

KHUFU
ruled 2589–2566 BC

▼ While the Greek writer Herodotus claimed Khufu's rule was one of suffering and oppression, this damning view is in contrast to his reputation as a wise pharaoh and builder. He commissioned the Great Pyramid of Giza, one of the Seven Ancient Wonders of the World. Herodotus is also responsible for the common idea that the pyramids were built on slave labour. It's actually more likely the 2.3 million building blocks were dragged into place by conscripted workers.

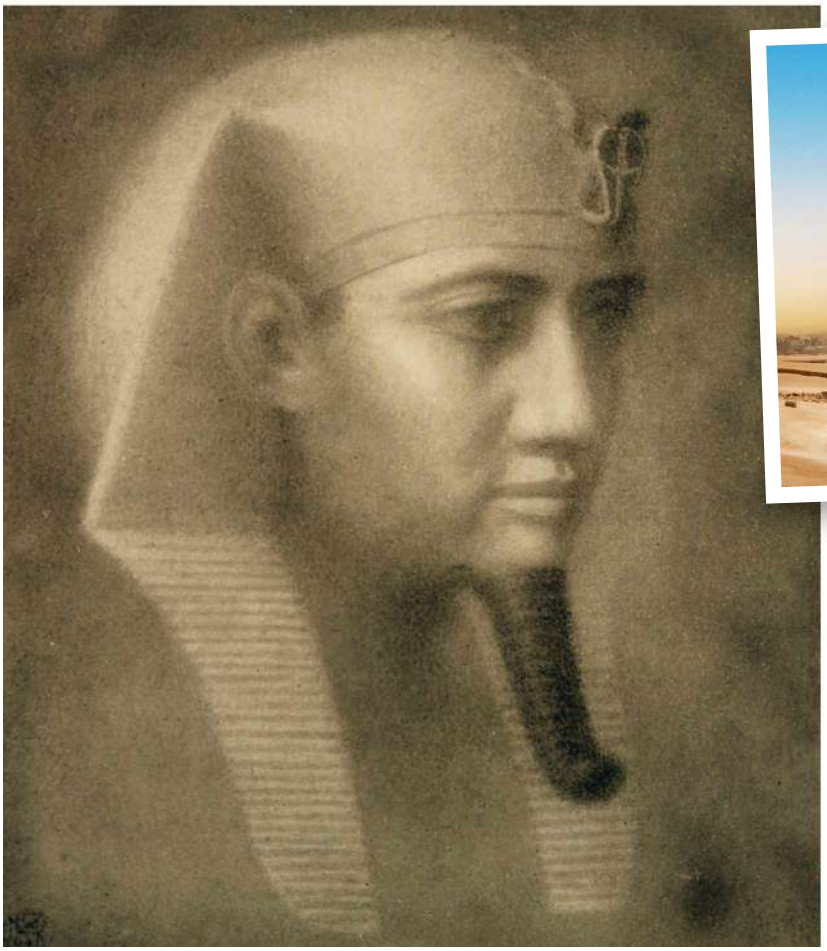
WORDS: RHIANNON DAVIES

A 19th-century painting imagines workers building Khufu's Great Pyramid. Contrary to popular belief, slaves were likely not used

GETTY MAGES X8, ALAMY X1

THE QUEST FOR IMMORTALITY

Ensuring a good life after death was a pressing concern for Egypt's ancient rulers, whose tombs reached monumental new heights



ABOVE: **Before the construction of the pyramids, tombs known as *mastabas* were typically used to house the remains of Egyptian royals**

TOP: **The pyramids of Menkaure, Khafre and Khufu (*in order from closest to camera*) still loom over Egypt's Giza plateau. The small pyramids in the foreground were built for their queens**

LEFT: **A depiction of Khufu. His 'Great Pyramid' was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World**

GETTY IMAGES X4, ALAMY X3

Have you ever heard of a pharaoh called Khufu? If you answered that question with a resounding "no", then the chances are you're not alone.

If you were to write a list of the most celebrated rulers in the ancient world, then Khufu would be little more than an also-ran. Alexander the Great would earn his place near the top of the podium courtesy of his extraordinary feats on the battlefield. Julius Caesar would be there, too, thanks to the role he played in supercharging Rome's rise to the greatest empire the world had ever known. And who could forget Hannibal's audacious feat of leading his army (and his elephants) across the Alps?

Poor old Khufu, however, probably wouldn't get a look-in. Which, in some ways is to do this pharaoh, who ruled Egypt in the 26th century BC, a disservice. For while many of Khufu's accomplishments have been lost to history, one of them towers quite literally above anything left to posterity by Caesar, Hannibal or Alexander, and that's the Great Pyramid of Giza.

When Khufu ordered the pyramid's construction on the western banks of the Nile four and a half millennia ago, he set in train a building project of staggering ambition. Approximately 20 years, 25,000 labourers and 5.5 million tonnes of limestone later, the pyramid stood at 481ft, covering a massive 13 acres. It was the tallest man-made structure on Earth for 3,800 years, surely one of the greatest architectural feats in human history.

But what makes the pyramid even more extraordinary is that Khufu never intended to use it – not while he was alive anyway. For the Great Pyramid was a vast tomb designed to house the pharaoh's body in death. As a symbol of just how large the afterlife loomed in the imagination of the ancient Egyptians, the Great Pyramid simply can't be beaten.

But why? What would lead a pharaoh to invest mind-boggling reserves of time and money into the construction of a building that he would never use this side of the grave?

An o ering table from the mortuary temple of Amenemhat I (r1985–1956 BC). It was thought that placing food and drink on the table would give the deceased sustenance in the afterlife

The answer somewhat lies in the life expectancy of the residents of ancient Egypt. Existence could be short and precarious for the people of north Africa 4,500 years ago, even for those who lived lives as gilded as the pharaohs. However, there was nothing short and precarious about immortality. Eternal life was the carrot dangling before those prepared to put in the groundwork while they lived on Earth. And no one put in more groundwork than the pharaohs.

Khufu may have constructed the largest and most elaborate pyramid of them all, but it was far from the first. Pharaohs had been building tombs with a view to securing a place in the afterlife for many centuries before the Great Pyramid began vaulting skywards. At first, they were flat-topped structures called *mastabas*. All that changed with the accession of King Djoser in the 27th century BC. Djoser was responsible for the first step pyramid (around 60 metres high and comprising six stepped layers) and had two separate tombs built within his funerary complex, perhaps reflecting his role as the dual king of both Upper and Lower Egypt.

PREVENTING PLUNDER

Pyramid design became ever more elaborate over the centuries, and so did grave robbers' attempts to break in and make off with anything they could find. By the time Amenemhat III designed his tomb in the 19th or 18th century BC, so concerned was he at the prospect of thieves raiding its contents and disturbing his plans to join Osiris, the god of the afterlife, that his pyramid was fitted with a sliding door, false corridors and hidden rooms.

There was a reason that robbers plundered pyramids at every opportunity. Pharaohs believed that everything that was interred with them in their tomb would accompany them on the journey into the afterlife. These were people with expensive tastes. As a result, their tombs were often packed with a staggering array of riches.

Take the tomb of the most famous of all pharaohs, Tutankhamun. It contained more than 50 garments of top-quality linen, not to mention gloves, scarves, headdresses and tunics. Tutankhamun clearly also had a penchant for jewellery – evidenced by the presence of necklaces, pendants, buckles and bracelets. And just to ensure the pharaoh smelled every bit as good as he looked, he was buried with the finest perfume – some of which was still left in an alabaster jar when his tomb was discovered.

MIND, BODY AND SOUL

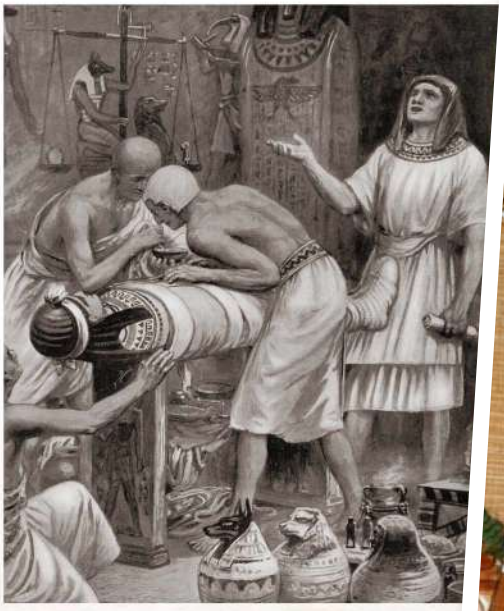
As you'd expect from the architect of the Great Pyramid, no expense was spared when Khufu was buried, having been interred with a pair of ships measuring 42 metres long. Experts aren't sure why Khufu would have wanted to take a couple of barges with him into the afterlife, though some believe they may have been ritual vessels designed to carry the pharaoh with the sun god Ra across the heavens.

Huge barges, the finest linens, sweet-smelling perfume… all could improve a pharaoh's quality of afterlife. But first the pharaoh had to get there – and that meant successfully reuniting the body with the soul. If that wasn't successfully achieved, then the dead ruler would be cast into oblivion, no matter how many bottles of wine sat in his tomb.

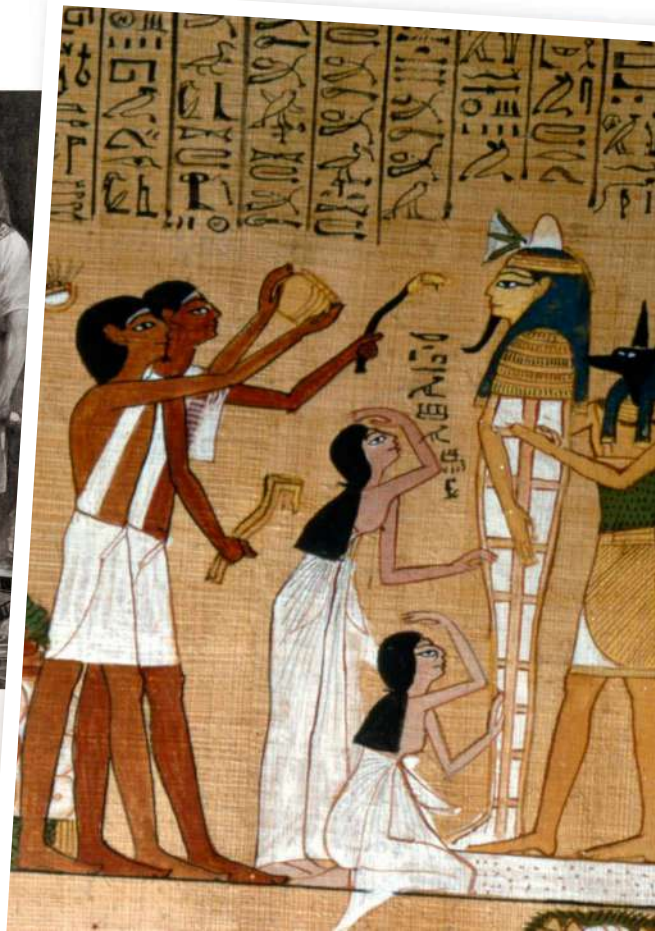
Key to ensuring that the pharaoh's body rejoined the soul was to stop it rotting – and that meant turning it into a mummy. This would involve the application of a salt called natron – removing all the moisture – and wrapping it in bandages from head to toe.

A priest would also perform an 'opening the mouth ceremony' in which he held a ritual instrument such as a serpent-headed blade to the corpse's face to ensure that he could eat, speak and breathe in the afterlife.

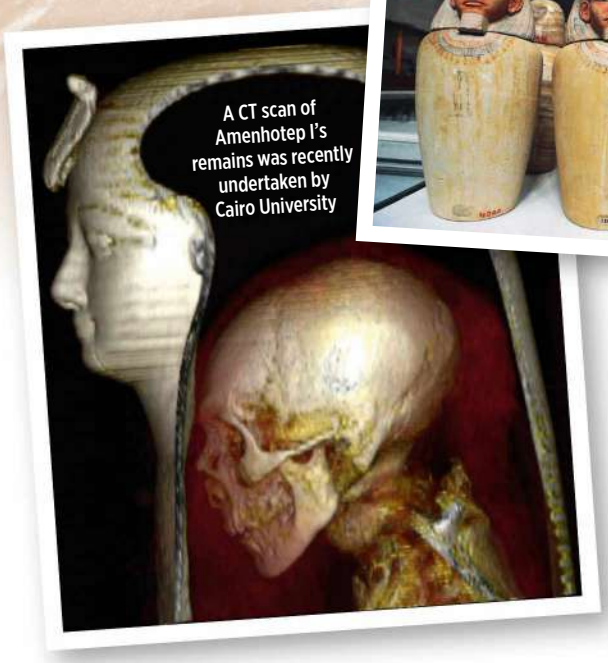
But first, those performing mummification had to deal with the body's organs. As the brain was considered useless, they removed that with the help of a chisel and a piece of wire. The liver, stomach, intestines and lungs were all deemed worthy of accompanying the pharaoh into the afterlife and so were removed, cleaned in wine and sealed in containers called canopic jars. No such trauma was inflicted upon the heart. This was ▶



ABOVE: **The embalming process involved desiccating the pharaoh's body in a type of salt called natron**



RIGHT: **A papyrus from c1300 BC shows an 'opening of the mouth' ceremony, readying the deceased for the afterlife**



A CT scan of Amenhotep I's remains was recently undertaken by Cairo University

Canopic jars were used to store body parts such as the lungs, liver, stomach and intestines

considered the most important organ of all, for only once it had been weighed against a feather in the underworld would the pharaoh learn if he or she had achieved immortality. As a result, this was left in the body ready for the journey to the other side.

Over the past century or so, archaeologists have found the mummified remains of numerous rulers including Thutmose III (known as the 'Napoleon of Egypt' due to his thirst for conquest), Ramesses II (another belligerent leader, whose body showed signs of arthritis and healed injuries), and, of course, history's famous 'boy king', Tutankhamun.

It's not often that King Tut has to share the limelight with another pharaoh but that was the case in 2021 when Amenhotep I became the first Egyptian ruler to be "digitally unwrapped" via CT scan. The scan revealed that Amenhotep was approximately 5ft 6ins tall, was around 35 years old when he died and, if the rather ghoulish facial image of the pharaoh is anything to go by, had curly hair and slightly protruding teeth.

When he ruled Egypt 3,000 years ago, Amenhotep may have spent countless hours considering what fate awaited him in the afterlife. We can never know what images these musings produced. But you can bet it wasn't a scanner in Cairo University's radiology department.

WORDS: SPENCER MIZEN

BOOKS OF THE DEAD

When it came to navigating the afterlife, Egyptians had a trusty tome to which they could turn

You've just died. That's clearly not great news. And just as you're thinking that things can't get any worse, they do. For, no sooner have you breathed your last in the land of the living, than you're cast into the land of the dead – a dark, fiery underworld guarded by snakes, crocodiles and half-human monstrosities, all attempting to prevent you from reaching the afterlife. Worse still, Apep, the serpent god of destruction, lurks in the shadows waiting to devour your soul. How, you ask yourself, can you possibly navigate your way to the Hall of Ma'at, the goddess of truth and justice – where you can reunite your soul and body and earn immortality – without being cast into eternal oblivion?

As this image proves, the ancient Egyptian concept of the journey into the afterlife was a detailed and forbidding one – and it was laced with peril.

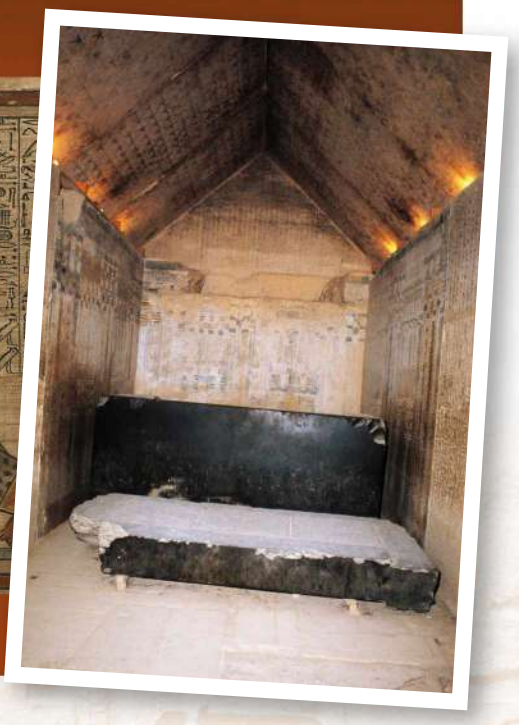
Yet there was a surefire way to mitigate that peril – and that was to carry a Book of the Dead. This was, in short, a papyrus containing magic, prayers and spells that Egyptians believed could protect them from any threat that Ma'at and her evil associates could offer.

The most famous example of such a book (which now resides in the British Museum) belonged to a scribe named Ani, who lived in Thebes in the 13th century BC. Yet the Book of the Dead probably originated from something called the *Pyramid Texts*, which were inscribed in pyramids from the third millennium BC. The texts were a series of spells and incantations designed to free the soul of the king from the body and help it ascend toward the heavens.

The pharaoh Unas, who lived in the 24th century BC, had no fewer than 283 such spells on the walls of his pyramid, one of which declares:

"Ho, Unas! You have not gone away dead: you have gone away alive.

Sit on Osiris' chair, with your baton in your arm, and govern the living."



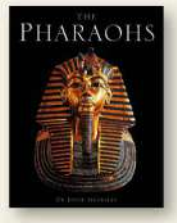
ABOVE: A scene from the Book of the Dead owned by the 13th-century BC scribe Ani, depicting his heart being weighed
RIGHT: The pharaoh Unas was buried in a chamber with more than 280 spells from the *Pyramid Texts* adorning the walls

GETTY IMAGES X3, SAHAR SALEEM X1

GET HOOKED

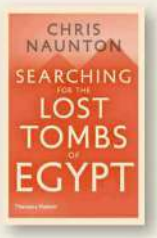
If we've whetted your appetite for ancient Egyptian pharaohs, why not explore the topic further with our pick of books, films, podcasts and TV and radio programmes

BOOKS



The Pharaohs
By Prof Joyce Tyldesley (Quercus Publishing, 2019)

In an illustrated history of the kings who ruled over Egypt, Prof Joyce Tyldesley narrates the story of 30 dynasties, and profiles powerful, and sometimes enigmatic, rulers such as Mentuhotep II, Thutmose III, Akhenaten, Tutankhamun, Ramesses II and more.

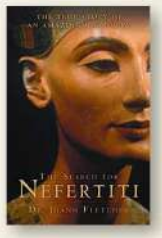


Searching for the Lost Tombs of Egypt
By Dr Chris Naunton (Thames & Hudson, 2018)

Dr Chris Naunton unravels the tangled threads surrounding the mysteries of the missing tombs of Alexander the Great and Cleopatra, exploring the reasons why tombs remain such a central part of the continuing allure of ancient Egypt.

The Treasures of Tutankhamun
By Dr Garry J Shaw (Thames & Hudson, 2021)

This beautifully illustrated book brings to life some of the greatest treasures discovered in the tomb of Tutankhamun, with text explaining what each featured object is, where it was found and why it was buried with the young pharaoh.



The Search for Nefertiti: The True Story of an Amazing Discovery
By Prof Joann Fletcher (William Morrow & Co, 2004)

Prof Joann Fletcher explores the story behind her research into a long-forgotten mummy from the Valley of the Kings that she believes is Nefertiti, wife of Pharaoh Akhenaten.

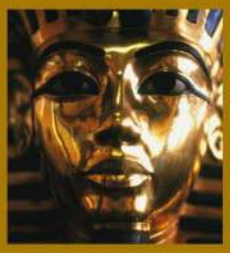
ON THE BBC

BBC RADIO 4

▶ You're Dead to Me: The Egyptian Pyramids
bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p09l63kf
Greg Jenner (*pictured*) is joined by Prof Sarah Parcak and comedian Maria Shehata to learn all about the magnificent Egyptian pyramids.

BBC WORLD SERVICE

▶ The Forum: Nefertiti: The beguiling Egyptian Queen
bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/w3csyp61
Bridget Kendall (*pictured*) and guests, including Prof Joyce Tyldesley, discuss the story of the mysterious queen Nefertiti.



BBC RADIO 4

▶ The Cult of King Tut
bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0009r52
Prof Patricia Clavin explores the cult of Egyptomania that sprang up following the opening, in 1922, of Tutankhamun's tomb.

ONLINE AND AUDIO

▶ For podcasts, features, quizzes, interviews and more on Egyptian pharaohs, visit our website: *historyextra.com/period/ancient-egypt*

▶ Looking for Egypt's lost tombs
In a lecture from 2019, Dr Chris Naunton explores some of the most fascinating ancient figures whose tombs are yet to be discovered. Listen at *bit.ly/3jmm86Z*

▶ Cleopatra: unpicking myth from reality
Prof Joyce Tyldesley explores the life and legacy of the last queen of Egypt. Listen at *bit.ly/303uu0M*

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Prof Joyce Tyldesley answers listener questions and top internet search queries about ancient Egypt's royal rulers. Listen at *bit.ly/360upKJ*

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Tutankhamun: Waking the Dead
(now streaming on My5)

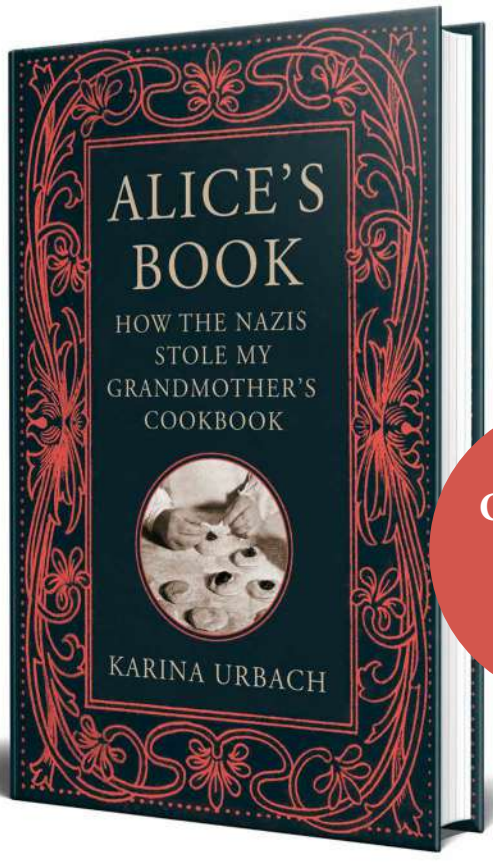
Using a century of research and the latest scientific evidence, Prof Bettany Hughes takes a forensic look at the body of Tutankhamun.

Legends of the Pharaohs
(Sky History)

Experts and historians explore the birth of Egypt's ancient wonders through the eyes of the architects, stone cutters, soldiers and farmers who toiled to fulfil the pharaohs' visions.

FRAN MONK X1, GETTY IMAGES X3, SANDSTONE GLOBAL X1

THE STORY OF A JEWISH CHEF, HER FAMOUS COOKBOOK AND HOW THE NAZIS STOLE IT FROM HER



OUT NOW in all good bookshops

'Urbach has retold the tragic Holocaust story in quite unforgettable lines'
A.N. Wilson

'A remarkable book'
Spiegel

Translated from the German by Jamie Bulloch

AN A–Z OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II

As Her Majesty marks 70 years on the throne, we take an alphabetical look back at the story of her life and reign

BBC ONE

The Queen's Platinum Party at the Palace, on 4 June, will be broadcast live on BBC One, BBC iPlayer and supported across the entire BBC network. Visit *bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0bk26mx* for more information.

GETTY IMAGES X2

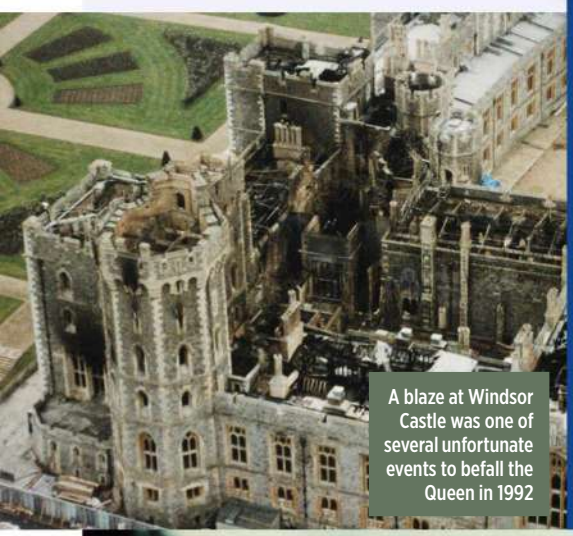
A is for... ANNUS HORRIBILIS

▼ "1992 is not a year on which I shall look back with undiluted pleasure... it has turned out to be an 'Annus Horribilis'," said the Queen, now famously, in a speech marking her 40th year on the throne. Indeed, 1992 had proved difficult for the royal family, with the breakdown of Prince Charles' and Prince Andrew's marriages, Princess Anne's divorce, and a fire at Windsor Castle high on the list of unfortunate events.

A special collection of stamps was issued when the Queen became a nonagenarian in 2016

B is for... BIRTHDAYS

▲ Thanks to the unpredictability of the British weather, the Queen celebrates two birthdays every year: the day she was born (21 April) and the second Saturday in June. The two-birthday tradition began with George II in 1748 – his November birthday was deemed to be too cold for *al fresco* celebrations, so he decided to attach his birthday celebrations to the Trooping the Colour ceremonial parade held in the summer.



A blaze at Windsor Castle was one of several unfortunate events to befall the Queen in 1992

C is for... CORONATION CHICKEN

▼ 'Poulet Reine Elizabeth' – better known as coronation chicken – was dreamt up in 1953 by florist Constance Spry and cordon bleu chef Rosemary Hume. The dish is said to have been inspired by the 'Jubilee Chicken' recipe that was created in 1935 for George V's Silver Jubilee, but, in an era of postwar rationing, coronation chicken is unlikely to have been on the menu of many street parties in 1953.

The Queen poses for a snap alongside one of her many corgis at Balmoral in 1952

D is for... DOGS

▶ The Queen's love of dogs, specifically the corgi breed, is well-known; she has owned more than 30 corgis since her accession. Perhaps her closest canine friend, though, was Susan, the Pembroke Welsh corgi who was given to the-then Princess Elizabeth on her 18th birthday. The pup even took part in her wedding to Prince Philip – riding in the state coach (hidden under a blanket) and travelling with the royal couple on their honeymoon.

E is for... EMAIL

In March 1976, the Queen made history when she became the author of the first royal email. Distributed using ARPANET – a forerunner of the internet – from the Royal Signals and Radar Establishment in Malvern, Worcestershire, the message announced the development of a new programming language. It was sent from the Queen's – rather predictably named – personal email account: HME2.

GETTY IMAGES X10

F is for... FATHER

▶ When Princess Elizabeth was born in 1926, her father was still Prince Albert, Duke of York, but in 1936, life changed dramatically when Albert took the throne as George VI, meaning that Elizabeth was now heir apparent. Elizabeth's preparation for queenship began almost immediately and father and daughter developed a close bond as he trained his eldest child for her future role as monarch.

A young Princess Elizabeth pictured out riding with her beloved father, King George VI, who took the throne after his brother's shock abdication

G is for... GIFTS

▶ Queen Elizabeth II has received countless gifts throughout her reign – some precious, others... more unusual. Several live animals have been presented to the Queen, including a young Nile crocodile from the People of Berending on the Gambia River and two Aldabra giant tortoises from the Government and People of the Seychelles.

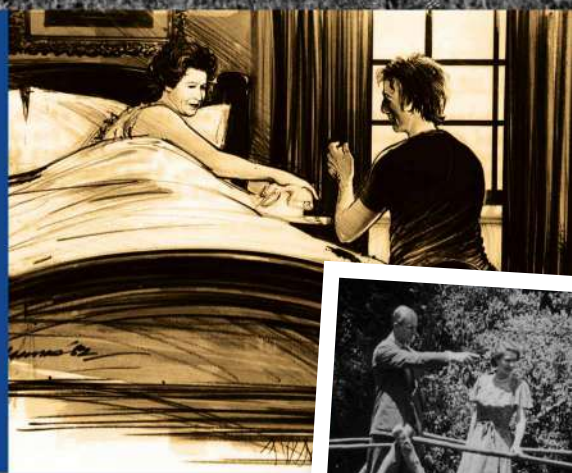
Two Aldabra giant tortoises were presented to the Queen during a visit to the Seychelles in 1972, and later brought to live at London Zoo

H is for... HATS

◀ The Queen is known for her vibrantly coloured coats with matching headgear, but just how many hats does the royal wardrobe contain? While the exact number is not confirmed, Her Majesty is rumoured to have donned more than 5,000 hats over the duration of her reign.

I is for... INTRUDER

Michael Fagan scaled a wall and a drainpipe to make it into the Queen's bedroom



▶ Several intruders have been apprehended in the grounds of royal residences over the years, but none have made it as far as Michael Fagan, who, in 1982, broke into Buckingham Palace and found his way to the Queen's bedroom. Since trespass was then a civil offence, Fagan was only tried for burglary (having helped himself to half a bottle of wine), and spent several months at a psychiatric hospital.

J is for... JUBILEE

The Queen meets some young fans celebrating her Golden Jubilee in 2002

▶ This year, the Queen marks her Platinum Jubilee, becoming the first British monarch to celebrate 70 years on the throne. She will follow in the footsteps of other famous monarchs who have celebrated milestones in their reigns, including Edward III (r1327–77), who is said to have celebrated his Golden Jubilee with a magnificent procession from the Tower of London.

K is for... KENYA

Elizabeth and Philip's 1952 visit to Kenya was tinged with tragedy

▶ It was during a stay at Treetops Hotel in Nyeri, Kenya, on 6 February 1952, that Princess Elizabeth learned that her father, George VI, had died. She and Prince Philip had been enjoying a short break in the African country during the first leg of a Commonwealth tour, but flew home immediately, landing in London the next day.

L is for... LYNDON B JOHNSON

▶ Fourteen US presidents have come and gone over the past 70 years, but only one failed to meet the Queen face to face. Despite corresponding by letter between March 1964 and July 1967, neither Queen Elizabeth II nor President Lyndon B Johnson issued invitations for the other to visit.

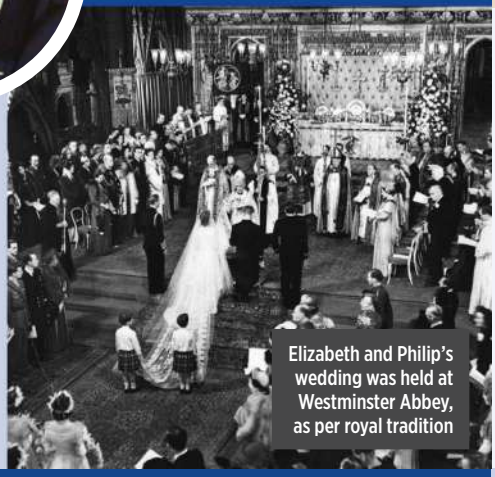
M is for... MOTHERHOOD

A doting Elizabeth is pictured with Anne and Charles in 1952, on the latter's fourth birthday

▶ Assuming the throne with two small children – Prince Charles (3) and Princess Anne (18 months) – meant juggling monarchy with motherhood from the off, and long periods of time away from family while touring. Two more children (Prince Andrew and Prince Edward) followed in 1960 and 1964 respectively, ensuring the continuity of the Windsor line.

N is for... NICKNAMES

Despite her dignified demeanour, the Queen is said to have a number of nicknames within the royal family, including 'Gary' (bestowed by a young Prince William who had confused the word with 'Granny'). Princess Charlotte is said to use 'Gan-Gan', while the late Prince Philip often called his wife 'Cabbage' – perhaps from the French term of endearment, *mon petit chou* (my little cabbage).



Elizabeth and Philip's wedding was held at Westminster Abbey, as per royal tradition

O is for... OBEY

◀ When the future Elizabeth II married Philip Mountbatten in 1947, eyebrows were raised over the choice of wedding vows. The word 'obey' had been removed from the Church of England service in 1928, two years after women were permitted to own property on the same terms as men, but Princess Elizabeth chose to include the word in her vows, promising to "love, cherish, and to obey" her new husband.

GETTY IMAGES X10, ALAMY X1

The Queen and Prince Philip were married for 73 years, having first been introduced to each other as children

P is for... PRINCE PHILIP

◀ The Queen and Prince Philip enjoyed a 73-year marriage before his death in April 2021. The pair were introduced in 1934, and met again five years later at the Royal Naval College in Dartmouth when Elizabeth was 13 and Philip was 18. It was here, reportedly, that Elizabeth fell in love with her future husband, a man she described on their golden wedding anniversary as being her "strength and stay".

Q is for... QUALIFICATIONS

Conventional schooling is a fairly recent choice for the British royal family, with Prince Charles the first heir to the throne to have received a formal education and attain a university degree. Both the Queen and her younger sister, Princess Margaret, were home-schooled by a governess, with the young Elizabeth also receiving lessons in constitutional history after she became heir to the throne.

R is for... RADIO BROADCAST

Elizabeth (*right*) prepares for a broadcast with her sister Margaret by her side

▶ The future Queen made her first public address on 13 October 1940, aged 14. Joined by Princess Margaret, the speech was broadcast at the start of *Children's Hour* on the BBC World Service, and was aimed at children who had been evacuated from Britain to America, Canada and elsewhere.

▶▶ You can listen to the recording via the BBC Archive: *bbc.co.uk/archive/childrens-hour--princess-elizabeth/z7wm92p*

S is for... SWANS

▲ The Crown has claimed ownership of mute swans (a particular species of swan) since the 12th century, when monarchs liked to tuck into the white waterbird at feasts. A 'Swan Upping' ceremony, led by the Queen's Swan Marker, takes place in the third week of July each year on a particular stretch of the River Thames, and any swans found are checked over – for health reasons, rather than as a potential meal.

The Queen meets well-wishers on a visit to the Six Nations Indian Reserve in Ontario in 1984

T is for... TOURS

▶ During her long reign, Elizabeth II has travelled more than a million miles (1,032,513 to be precise) and visited 117 different countries, despite never owning a passport. In 2015, having flown the equivalent of 42 times around the globe since her accession, the Queen finally hung up her boarding pass and retired from overseas travel, making a trip to Malta her last foreign tour.

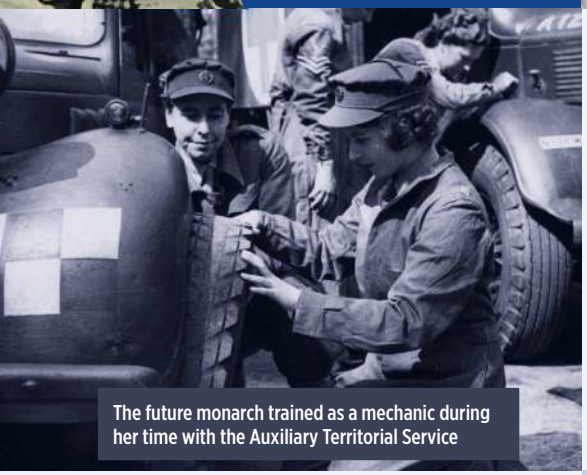
U is for... UNCLE EDWARD

At her birth in 1926, baby Elizabeth was third in line to the throne, behind her uncle Edward (later Edward VIII) and her father (later George VI), and seemingly destined to be pushed down the line of succession by the births of brothers and male cousins. But on Edward VIII's abdication in 1936 her future took a new direction and her path to queenship began.

Elizabeth and Margaret secretly mingled with the crowds during London's VE Day celebrations

V is for... VE DAY

◀ In 1985, the Queen confessed in a BBC interview that, on 8 May 1945, she had secretly joined in the public celebrations that had followed the announcement that the war in Europe had ended. Dressed in her Auxiliary Territorial Service uniform (*see next box*), she and Princess Margaret snuck out of the palace and joined the celebrating crowds on London's streets, all without being recognised.



The future monarch trained as a mechanic during her time with the Auxiliary Territorial Service

W is for... WORLD WAR II

◀ Aged 13 when WWII broke out, Princess Elizabeth was evacuated to Windsor Castle with her nine-year-old sister, Princess Margaret. As the conflict progressed, Elizabeth joined in with the war effort, tending her allotments as part of the Dig for Victory campaign and eventually joining the Auxiliary Territorial Service. She is the first female royal to have joined the armed services as a full-time active member.

X is for... X-RAYS

From tea towels to teapots, royal memorabilia is a massive business, but not all collectibles have received the royal seal of approval. In 2011, 18 dental X-rays of Elizabeth II's teeth, together with those of her mother and father – taken between 1942 and 1946 – were withdrawn from an auction in Gloucestershire. Lawyers for the royal family cited a right of privacy for medical records and the lot was pulled from sale.

Y is for... YACHT

Now a popular visitor attraction and events venue in Edinburgh's Port of Leith, HMY *Britannia* served the royal family for 44 years, travelling more than a million nautical miles. But in December 1997, the yacht was deemed too expensive to maintain and run, and the huge vessel was decommissioned. The Queen is said to have shed a tear at the ship's decommissioning ceremony in Portsmouth.

The Queen's state visit to Zambia in 1979 was not without controversy

Z is for... ZAMBIA

▶ The Queen is expected to remain politically neutral, but she has, on occasion, been a target for the decisions of her governments. In 1979, during a visit to Zambia, some Zambians waved banners in protest against the UK government's plans to recognise the controversial political regime of neighbouring Zimbabwe Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), led by Abel Muzorewa.

WORDS: CHARLOTTE HODGMAN

WHAT GREAT PAINTINGS SAY

Instantly familiar and much parodied, Grant Wood's Depression-era painting leaves observers with more questions than answers

American Gothic

by Grant Wood, 1930

"All the really good ideas I ever had came to me while I was milking a cow," reflected Grant Wood in 1936. And – whether bovine-inspired or not – arguably none of his ideas have been as good, nor had such an impact, as his 1930 work *American Gothic*.

Dubbed the US answer to *Mona Lisa*, *American Gothic* is arguably one of the most parodied artworks in the world, lampooned in films such as *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, and even starring in an episode of *The Simpsons*. But what is it about this painting that has captured our imaginations for nearly a century?

"For me, *American Gothic*'s appeal lies in its sense of mystery and ambiguity," says Sarah Kelly Oehler, Field-McCormick chair and curator of arts of the Americas at the Art Institute of Chicago. "From the identity of the sitters to Wood's reasons for painting it, the work has an intriguing narrative blankness that has allowed it to be re-envisioned in so many different ways.

"Wood deliberately cultivated this ambiguity – mostly because it was good publicity – staying vague as to whether the duo are husband and wife or father and daughter; it is these sorts of enduring questions that have helped drive the painting's popularity."

MIDWESTERN OUTRAGE

Wood painted the work in the autumn of 1930 – at the outset of the Great Depression – after being inspired by a house he had seen in Eldon, Iowa, earlier that year. As he looked at the house – an outdated building from the 1880s, built in a style known as Carpenter Gothic – Wood had tried to imagine the sort of people who might live there: "American Gothic people" was his final conclusion. On his return home, Wood asked his sister, Nan, and his dentist to model – on separate occasions – for the piece, styling and dressing them as if they were "tintypes from my old family album". Indeed, Wood instructed Nan to send away for "a prim, colonial print" apron and overalls from a mail order firm. The rickrack trim of Nan's apron, long out of style, was ripped from some of their mother's old dresses.

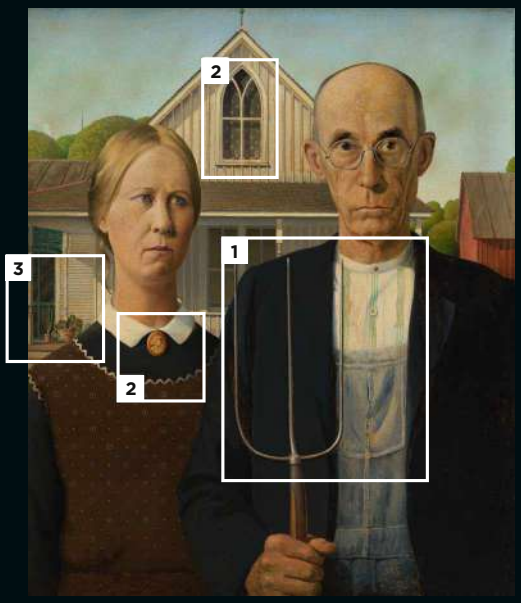
Intriguing as it is, the painting would likely have remained relatively unknown had Wood not entered it in a competition at the Art Institute of Chicago, where, incidentally, it has hung ever since. The piece was awarded third prize, but it wasn't long before it was being picked up in the press as an exemplar of rural Iowa. And Iowans were outraged.

"The painting sparked a huge backlash in Wood's hometown of Cedar Rapids, with many Iowans taking offence at being depicted as 'pinched, grim-faced, puritanical Bible-thumpers'," says Oehler. "Locals wrote to the press asserting that the painting was not an accurate representation of the Midwest, insisting that they had fashionable hairstyles and clothing and used modern farming techniques." One particularly incensed farmer's wife is even said to have threatened to bite off Wood's ear.

Whether a work of satire or not – something Wood always denied – there have been countless theories about the painting over the past nine decades. To some, the unsmiling couple – exuding a formality reminiscent of 19th-century daguerreotypes – represent the grit of the pioneer spirit and a return to authentic American values. Others have been more preoccupied with their relationship. Whether he is a father or husband, the hostile stare and tightly gripped pitchfork evoke the feeling that this is a man protecting both the virtue of the woman beside him and his home.

Concludes Oehler: "For me, who they are is not important; it's the lack of knowing that interests me. The painting's ambiguity, their blank expressions, leave it wide open to interpretation – and parody. It's a big part of why *American Gothic* remains such a popular and well-known painting, even after all this time." ⊙

WORDS: CHARLOTTE HODGMAN



1. REPEATING FORMS

Wood uses several repeating forms in the painting, linking all the elements together: the shape of the pitchfork is duplicated in the lines of the man's overalls, and to some extent in the lines of the house. Elsewhere, the pattern of the woman's apron is the same as the fabric of the blinds at the window. The whole painting feels elongated – from the faces to the pitchfork, to the Gothic-style window.

2. BLACK DRESS

Some art historians believe that this is a mourning portrait, re ected in the woman's black dress and the closed blind in the window – a mourning custom that had been common in 19th-century America.

3. MASCULINE V FEMININE

The woman is associated with the domestic elements of the house – such as the plants and porch behind her – while the barn and pitchfork represent traditionally masculine farm labour.

GET HOOKED

American Gothic hangs in Gallery 263 at the Art Institute of Chicago. Visit the institute's website for more information on the painting, and how to visit: *artic.edu*

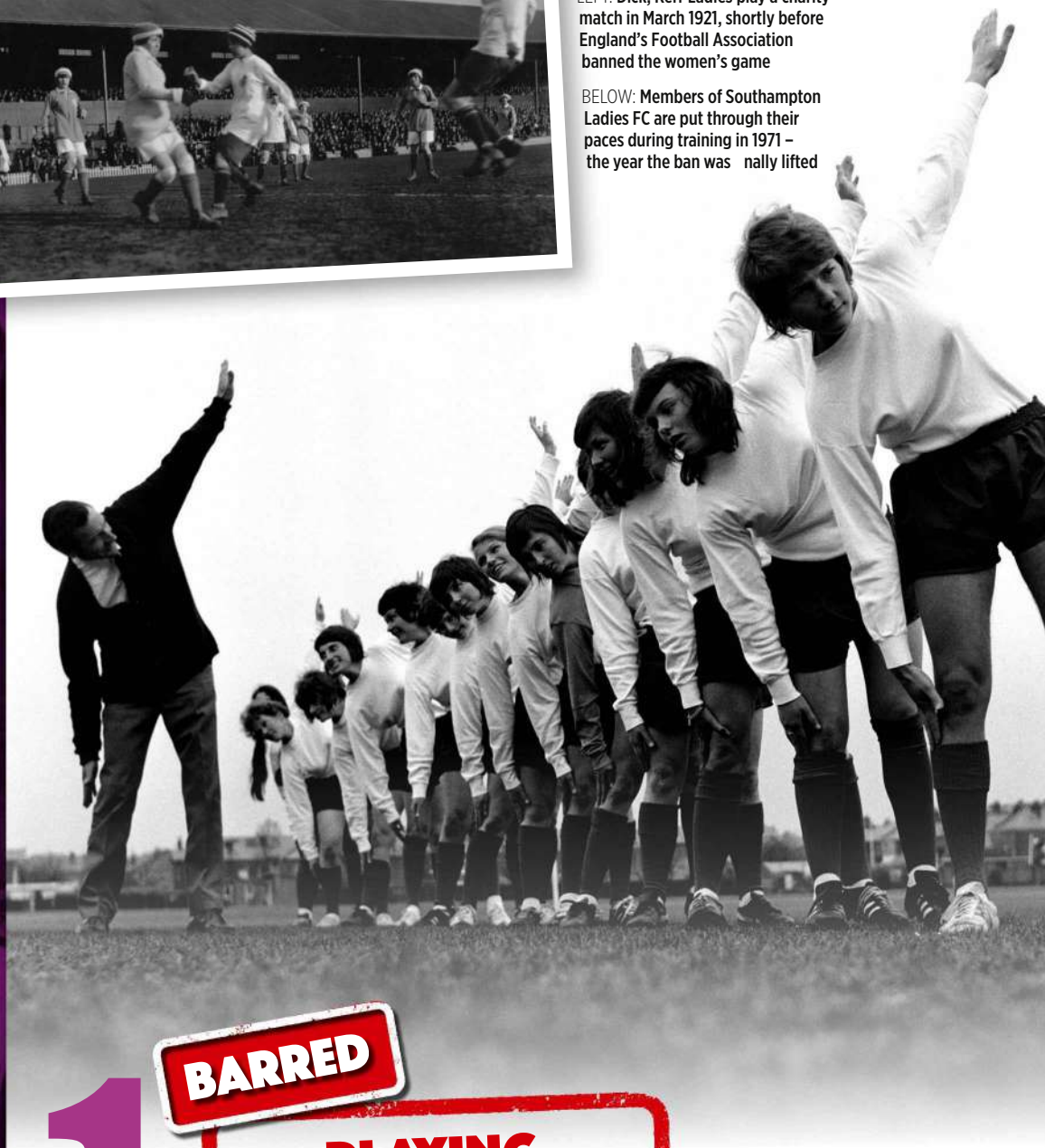
© GRANT WOOD. AMERICAN GOTHIC, 1930. FRIENDS OF AMERICAN ART COLLECTION

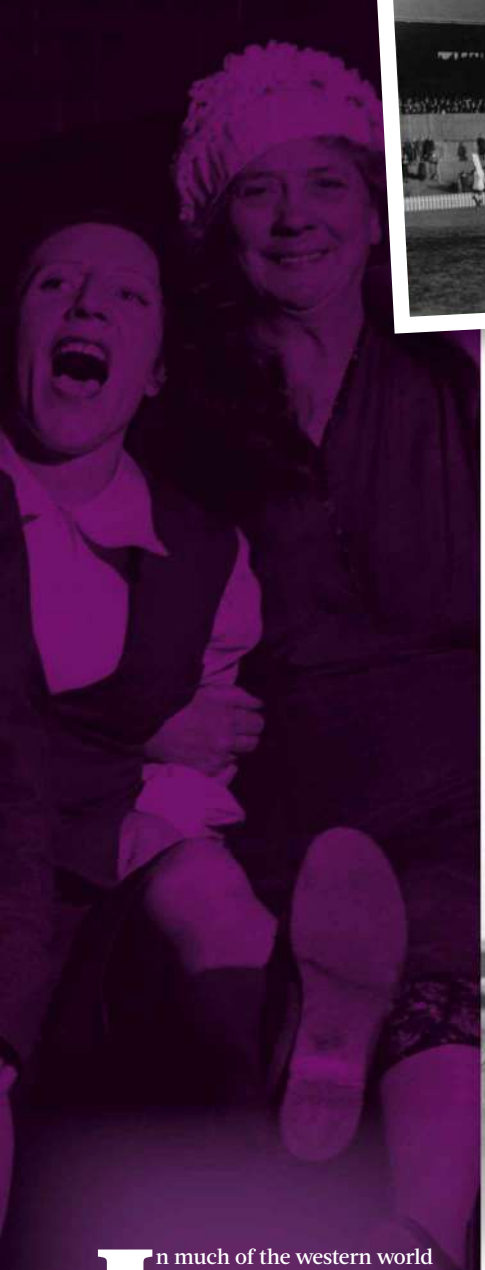
YOU'RE BARRED!

Throughout history, women have faced barriers and discrimination in virtually every area of daily life. We explore eight of the most unusual bans imposed on members of the 'fairer sex' in Britain and beyond – and how they were finally revoked

LEFT: **Dick, Kerr Ladies play a charity match in March 1921, shortly before England's Football Association banned the women's game**

BELOW: **Members of Southampton Ladies FC are put through their paces during training in 1971 – the year the ban was nally lifted**





In much of the western world today, men and women are considered equal – at least from a legal perspective. In Britain, the Equality Act 2010 states that no one should be discriminated against because of their sex, although there have remained a few exceptions to the rules (the armed forces, for example, could refuse to employ or promote a woman in certain combat roles until fairly recently).

In the past, however, women weren't given nearly the same opportunities as they are today. That women weren't allowed to vote until the early 20th century is common knowledge, but it might surprise you that taking on specific types of jobs and even pursuing certain hobbies was also illegal. We look at eight particularly striking examples...

1 BARRED PLAYING FOOTBALL

During World War I, with so many men off fighting in Europe, women in Britain rose to the challenge of filling in for their male counterparts. This happened not just in the workplace, but also on the football pitch. As the war progressed, the women's version of the 'beautiful game' – which had slowly been growing in the 19th century – kicked off big time.

Formalised into leagues, women's football drew huge crowds, and the powerhouse team were undoubtedly Dick, Kerr Ladies, formed by munitions workers in Preston. Their Boxing Day match in 1920 against St Helens was watched at Goodison Park (home of Everton FC) by 53,000 fans, with another 14,000 outside trying to cram in.

But the war had ended by then, and there was a desire among many men to put society back to the way it had always been – with women back in the home and, in terms of sports, relegated. In December 1921, the Football Association banned women's games on their grounds and forbade its members from acting as referees and linesmen. Women's football was effectively hobbled.

It was claimed that sport was unsuitable for women, with a (female) doctor stating it was "too much for a woman's physical frame" and could harm fertility. As one team captain put it, the ban was simply "sex prejudice". It would only be lifted in 1971, meaning women's football had been off the team for decades, while the men's game only flourished. ▶

GETTY IMAGES X3

2 BARRED

INHERITING AND OWNING PROPERTY

Primogeniture – the practice of passing down property and titles – historically favoured men, with daughters only inheriting if there were no appropriate male descendants. In cases where a woman did possess money or property in her own right, it would be acceded to her husband immediately upon their marriage.

The complexities of primogeniture serve as a plot device in many Jane Austen novels. When there are no sons to inherit the family fortune – as in the case of Mr Bennet in *Pride and Prejudice* and Sir Walter Elliot in *Persuasion* – a ticking time bomb awaits.

The desire to preserve family fortunes through the male line permeated society. As Austen famously writes, "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife."

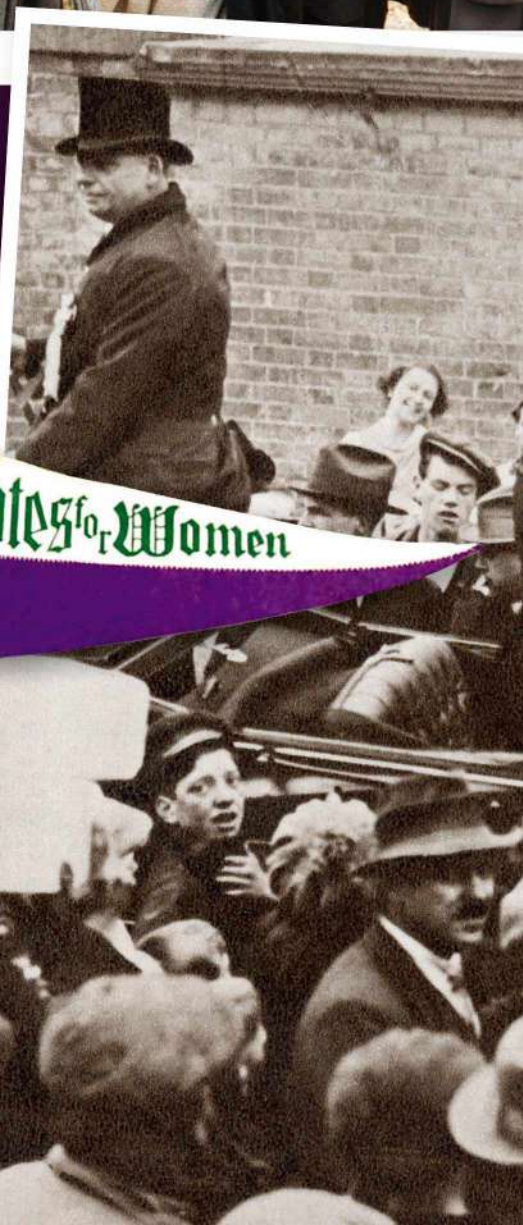
A wife in possession of a good fortune faced a rather different prospect: giving it all up to her husband. This was, at least, the case until the late 19th century. The Married Women's Property Act 1870 was a landmark piece of legislation that allowed any money earned by a woman to be considered her own, regardless of her marital status. In 1922, an additional law came into place that allowed a husband and wife to inherit the other's property in the event of one of their deaths, although it wasn't until 1926 that women were allowed to inherit, own and dispose of property on exactly the same terms as men.

3 BARRED

SITTING IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

RIGHT: **US-born politician Nancy Astor, seen here addressing voters, was the rst woman to take her seat in the House of Commons**

BELOW: **A young girl promotes women's suffrage in Trafalgar Square. Women weren't granted equal voting rights with men until 1928**

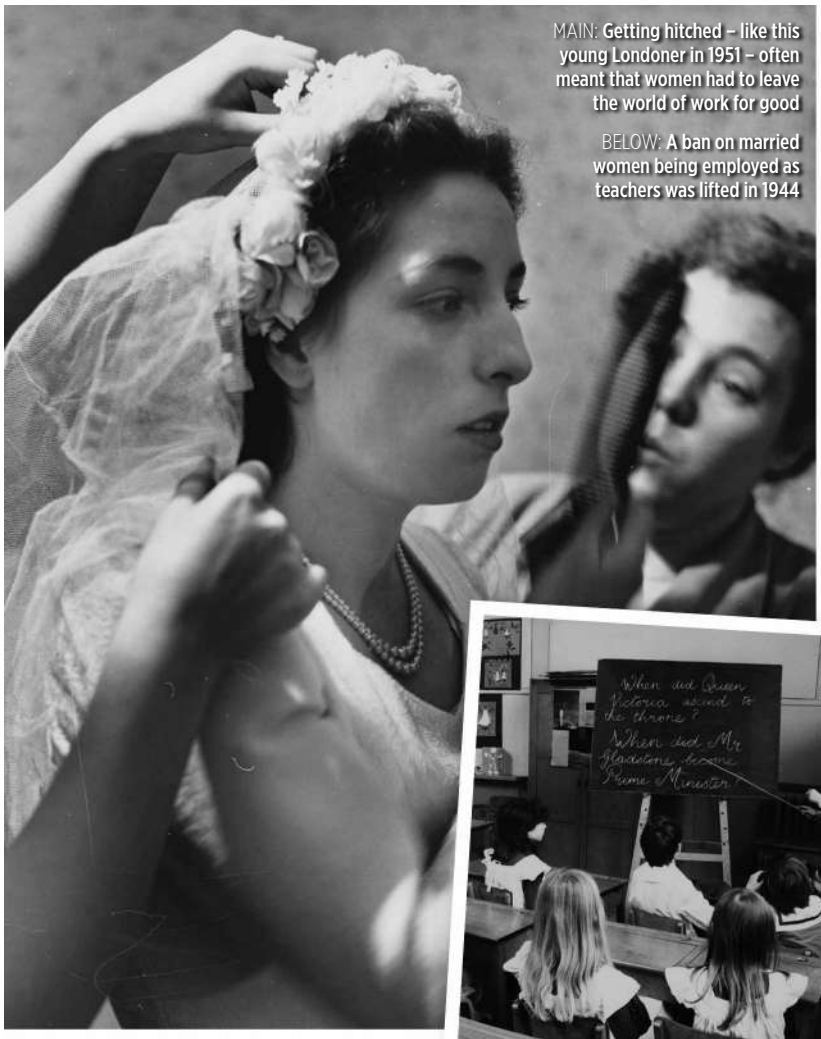


Women in the United Kingdom first gained the right to vote in 1918, although suffrage was initially only granted to those who were over the age of 30 and either owners of property or married to owners of property.

The law that made it possible – the 1918 Representation of the People Act – was a landmark moment in women's rights, not just because it enfranchised around 8.5 million female voters, but also because it enabled women to sit in Parliament for the first time.

In December 1918, Countess Constance Markievicz became the first woman to be elected to the House of Commons – although as a member of Sinn Féin, she did not take her seat. As such, Nancy Astor holds the title of the first woman to ever sit in the House of Commons; she was elected as MP for Plymouth Sutton in December 1919.

A still from Joe Wright's 2005 adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice* shows Mr Bennet with four of his five daughters. With no son to inherit after his death, Mr Bennet's estate is destined to pass to a distant, male cousin



MAIN: Getting hitched – like this young Londoner in 1951 – often meant that women had to leave the world of work for good

BELOW: A ban on married women being employed as teachers was lifted in 1944

4 BARRED WORKING AFTER MARRIAGE

Even if you don't count childcare and domestic duties, many women throughout history have worked in some capacity – particularly those among the poorer classes. However, there certainly were not the equal opportunities in the workplace that we might expect today – and even in countries that we would now consider to be socially liberal, women were outright prevented from holding certain positions.

In particular, it was considered improper for a woman to carry on working in certain professions once she was married. This was called a marriage bar, and it was common in many western countries from the late 19th century to as recently as the 1970s. In the UK, marriage bars meant that married women couldn't work for Foreign Service until 1973 and the British Geographical Survey until 1975. Teaching and working for the BBC were also professions that prohibited married women, although these bars were both removed in 1944.

According to a 1946 article that appeared in *The Spectator*, arguments in favour of marriage bars at the time included the idea that "the employment of married women takes employment from those who need it more" and "married women are less reliable and less 'mobile' than unmarried women". ▶

GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X2

5 BARRED WORKING NIGHT SHIFTS

In accordance with the Employment of Women, Young Persons, and Children Act 1920, working overnight was once illegal for women in Britain.

That women were barred from the night shift might seem surprising today, but in the early to mid-20th century people considered the ban to be progressive. According to Maurice Edelman, MP for Coventry North, the act was "designed to protect women, among others, from the gross exploitation which so many of them had had to endure during the Industrial Revolution". Edelman was speaking in a debate about factory night work held in December 1969, in which the question of women working overnight was raised. "I hope nobody will imagine that to protect women from exploitation by limiting their right to work in inferior conditions in any way impinges on the principle of equal pay or equality of opportunity," he explained. "No civilised person would want women to work underground in pits."

The Trades Union Congress – which was also strongly against the idea of women working at night – suggested that women should be shielded from the perceived evils of night work because many of them were married and effectively working a multitude of jobs (keeping a house and husband, as well as looking after children). Nowadays, both men and women can partake in the night shift, although those between the ages of 16 and 17 are not allowed to work between midnight and 4am.

RIGHT: **Men 'clock on' for a night shift at a London factory in 1947 – something women could not do**

FAR RIGHT: **Childcare responsibilities were cited as a reason why women should be denied night work**

LEFT: **Tess Gill (*left*) and Anna Coote (*centre*) led a successful campaign against sexist pub rules**

BELOW: **Enjoying a quiet pint wasn't always easy for women, with some venues relegating them to a separate 'snug'**

6 BARRED BEING SERVED IN A PUB

Until 1982, it was legal for the proprietor of a British pub to refuse service to a woman – and not because she'd had enough alcohol already, but simply because of her sex. Some pubs were entirely 'men-only', but even those that were open to both sexes wouldn't usually allow female customers to go in alone. Instead, they would sit in a dedicated snug – a separate room with frosted windows – to wait to be served, or for drinks to be brought to them by their male companions.

It was the Industrial Revolution that changed the dynamic of the pub, which historically had been more inclusive. With multitudes of working men pouring out of the factories, mills and mines, it was deemed necessary for them to have their own watering holes. This established such an unwelcoming precedent that the sight of a woman standing at a bar usually came to mean she was a prostitute.

The landmark change wouldn't come until the early 1980s. A solicitor named Tess Gill and a journalist, Anna Coote, were banned from El Vino on Fleet Street, London, just for standing up alongside their male colleagues, rather than sitting at the back. They decided enough was enough, took their case to the Court of Appeal and won, calling time on the sexist practice.

GETTY IMAGES X6, ALAMY X2

7 BARRED
COMPETING IN THE OLYMPICS

The original Olympic Games in ancient Greece were all-male affairs and the introduction of the modern Games in 1896, held in Athens, was no different. Its organiser, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, had previously declared that the participation of women would be "impractical, uninteresting, unaesthetic and incorrect" – although, fortunately, this was an attitude that did not prevail.

Perhaps Coubertin had a change of heart, as women were permitted to take part at the very next Games in Paris four years later – albeit in a limited capacity. Of the 997 athletes present at the 1900 Olympics, just 22 were women. They competed in five sports: tennis, sailing, croquet, equestrianism and golf.

Women's involvement in the Olympics has steadily increased throughout the 20th century, although there are still a handful of sports in which there are still no female athletes: decathlon, Greco-Roman wrestling and one-person dinghy (heavyweight). Since 1991, all new sports joining the programme are obliged to include women's events, but it wasn't until London 2012 that every participating country fielded female athletes for the first time.

ABOVE: **A drawing shows French tennis player Kate Gillou on the court at the Paris Olympics in 1900**

LEFT: **Baron Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, was initially hostile about women's participation**

8 BARRED
RUNNING THE BOSTON MARATHON

In April 1967, Kathrine Switzer officially entered the Boston Marathon, one of the most significant events in the long-distance running calendar (and the oldest annual marathon in the world). This would be an unremarkable incident today, but at the time, women were banned from running the race. Even Switzer's coach, Arnie Briggs, thought the distance too far for a "fragile woman" to complete.

To circumvent the archaic ban, Switzer used her initials rather than her first name on her entry race form so as to appear ambiguous about her sex. She was entered into the race under the number 261 and finished the marathon in four hours and 20 minutes. This would be considered a respectable time for many runners – but is perhaps even more impressive considering that the race's manager, Jock Semple, at one point attempted to physically remove Switzer's race number during the run.

One year previously, Roberta 'Bobbi' Gibb had become the first woman to complete the entire Boston Marathon in an unofficial capacity – much to the chagrin of race director Will Cloney, who had refused her request to register for the run. His reasoning was that women were physically incapable of running 26 miles, which was an odd assessment considering many women were on record at this point as having completed the distance. Violet Piercy of Great Britain, for example, was the first woman to be officially timed in the marathon, managing to complete the feat in three hours and 40 minutes in a race on 3 October 1926.

Gibb decided to run the race anyway, showing up in Boston without a race number and achieving a respectable time of three hours and 21 minutes (beating approximately two thirds of her fellow male runners). "I hadn't intended to make a feminist statement," she later explained. "I was running against the distance [not the men] and I was measuring myself with my own potential." ⊙

WORDS: RACHEL DINNING

ABOVE: **Jock Semple tries to remove Kathrine Switzer's race number during the 1967 Boston Marathon. She had managed to register by only using her initials**

RIGHT: **Roberta Gibb ran the marathon in 1966 without officially registering**

WHAT IF...

OLIVER CROMWELL'S SON HAD NEVER BEEN NAMED LORD PROTECTOR?

Professor Peter Gaunt tells **Nige Tassell** why a more capable leader than Richard Cromwell might have secured the long-term future of England's republic – but not necessarily forever

In September 1658, Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland and Ireland, lay on his deathbed. He had served less than five years in his role as both head of state and head of government, following the earlier execution of Charles I in 1649, but he was now required to name his successor. Cromwell is understood to have done so verbally; certainly, no written records survive of him revealing the name of the new Lord Protector. He chose Richard, his eldest surviving son.

He may have been his son, but Richard was no Oliver. His power base within the army was minimal and he had little clout within Parliament. By the following May, Richard's weakness had brought about his departure, which in turn led to the end of the Protectorate and to the restoration of the monarchy in 1660. So why had Cromwell believed his unqualified son to be the best man for the job?

BOUND BY TRADITION

"This is a key question and is very hard to answer," explains Peter Gaunt, professor of history at the University of Chester and an expert on Cromwell's Protectorate. "Oliver was surely sufficiently experienced and sufficiently intelligent to foresee problems in nominating someone who had no real military background or pedigree. I suspect a large part of the answer lies in Oliver's traditional social outlook – he was never radical in social terms and respected the established social hierarchy, as well as the value of family and kinship ties. Thus, once given the right and obligation to name his successor, he felt bound to name his elder surviving son and legal heir."

The right of the Lord Protector to unilaterally determine his successor had only recently been agreed. Cromwell had been offered a hereditary monarchy, which he declined. Under a new written constitution, the Humble Petition and Advice of 1657, the role wouldn't have been as all-powerful as that enjoyed by Charles I, as Gaunt makes clear. "It would have constrained quite tightly the actions of a king and what, as king, Oliver could do alone and without wider conciliar or parliamentary consent." Instead, Cromwell was now permitted to name his successor. Either way, whether as monarch or Lord Protector, Richard stepped into his father's shoes.

KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY

It wasn't that there weren't other, stronger candidates to become the second Lord Protector. There was Cromwell's son-in-law, for starters, the militarily well-connected Charles Fleetwood. A more likely candidate might have been Major-General John Lambert, Cromwell's right-hand man and chief author of the Instrument of Government (the constitution by which the post-monarchical government was run before the Humble Petition and Advice was drafted), had his fierce opposition to kingship in the spring of 1657 not led to a dramatic fall-out with Cromwell and his dismissal.

There was an even more suitable replacement within Cromwell's own bloodline: his younger son, Henry. "Henry might have made a better Lord Protector," says Gaunt. "He had a stronger military background and pedigree than his elder brother and, as chief administrator of Ireland since 1655, he had shown himself to be a good political operator in handling government and civilian issues. Henry died quite young in 1674. If he had become Lord Protector in 1658, been successful in the role and lived on as long as his elder brother Richard, who

IN CONTEXT

After the execution of Charles I in 1649, England was ruled by the Rump Parliament in conjunction with the English Council of State. Oliver Cromwell staged a coup in April 1653, dissolving the Rump Parliament and replacing it with a body called the Nominated Assembly. When this too was dissolved in December 1653, Cromwell created a Protectorate, with himself as Lord Protector. It was a role he fulfilled for less than half a decade. Suffering with complications from malaria, he named his son Richard as his successor. However, so weak was Richard as head of state that he resigned within months. In the struggle for power that ensued, an influential military figure, George Monck, restored the Long Parliament, the legislature that the Rump Parliament had superseded. Charles II returned from exile and the monarchy was restored in 1660.

Cromwell depicted with the body of Charles I in 1649. Four years later, Cromwell would also become head of state

GETTY IMAGES X3

MAIN: **A 19th-century illustration imagines Oliver Cromwell on his deathbed. His son, Richard, proved to be a poor choice of successor**

ABOVE LEFT: **Cromwell depicted with Major-General John Lambert (*right*), who would have likely been a better candidate for Lord Protector**

RIGHT: **Richard lacked the experience and connections to succeed**

did not die until 1712, things may have been very different."

It certainly wasn't inevitable that Cromwell's successor, following such a strong figure, would fail. Richard, without the connections or experience, was wholly unsuitable, but a sharper operator could have prospered. "Had the successor been able to repeat Oliver's trick of keeping the army sweet, loyal and supportive of the ostensibly civilian Protectoral regime, I see no reason why the Protectoral system could not and would not have continued much longer-term. I see nothing fundamentally unsound in the system which meant that it was doomed to failure or would have collapsed in the foreseeable future. I am not convinced that a Stuart restoration was inevitable."

But nor does Professor Gaunt believe a republican government would have ensued for centuries. "I am guessing, given the traditional and conservative outlook of the political elite and wider population, that the Protectoral system, had it survived long-term, would have evolved closer to a constitutional monarchical system, perhaps complete with the return of the title of king."

"RICHARD CROMWELL'S POWER BASE WITHIN THE ARMY WAS MINIMAL AND HE HAD LITTLE CLOUT IN PARLIAMENT"

DID YOU KNOW?

IDENTITY CRISIS

After the fall of the Protectorate in 1660, Richard Cromwell went into exile on the continent. Heavily in debt, he used a variety of pseudonyms during his time abroad, including 'John Clarke'. He returned to England in 1680 and died in 1712.

Had a stronger Lord Protector succeeded Cromwell, one who lasted more than a handful of months, might other European states have considered divesting themselves of their own monarchies? "While there are some examples of politico-constitutional developments in one state influencing or being followed or copied by another state, it is not that common. It is much more usual for each state to follow its own path, with its own individual peculiarities and unique systems. It would not have served as a blueprint."

LISTEN

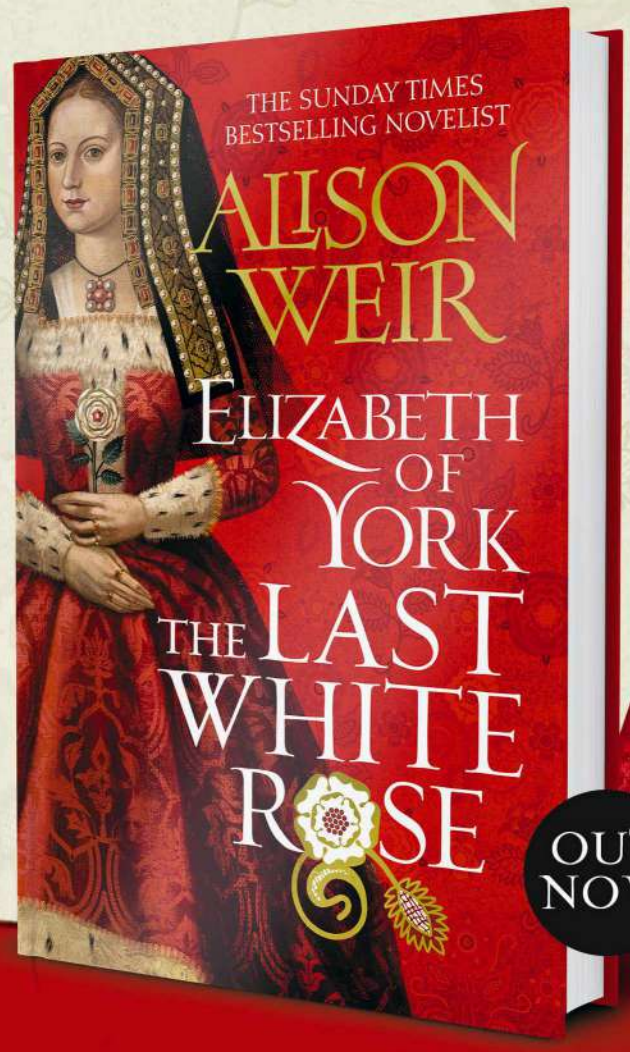
BBC RADIO 4 Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss the Interregnum in a recent episode of *In Our Time*: *bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000wcxn*

NEXT MONTH

What if... the Black Death had never happened?

HISTORY IS WRITTEN IN BLACK AND WHITE.

HER STORY BEGINS WITH WHITE AND RED.



OUT NOW

'Her most compelling heroine yet'
TRACY BORMAN

'History has the best stories and they should all be told like this'
CONN IGGULDEN

ELIZABETH OF YORK

MOTHER. SURVIVOR. QUEEN.

11,006
The number of birds shot by the future King George V during a single hunting season, from 1896–97.

DIVINE INTERVENTION
Despite having no formal nursing training, Clara Barton tended to wounded Union soldiers during the American Civil War

MEDICAL PIONEER
Barton pictured while serving as the founding president of the American Red Cross

Why was Clara Barton the 'angel of the battlefield'?

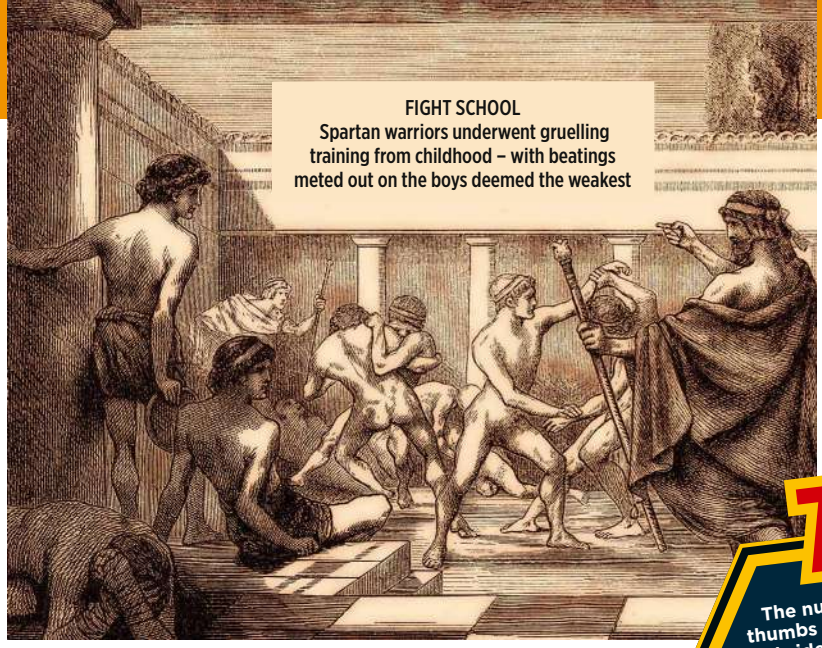
SHORT ANSWER The fact that it was NOT for founding the American Red Cross illustrates the extent of her deeds

LONG ANSWER Clara Barton founded the American Red Cross in 1881 and served as its president for more than 20 years, advancing medical care for the sick and wounded as a result of both war and natural disaster. By then, however, her status as an 'angel' had already been long established.

When the American Civil War broke out in 1861, Barton, who had no nursing training, quickly reached the conclusion that she could do the most good at the frontlines. She secured permission to travel with the Union Army to bring wagons laden with medicines and supplies, making her a regular presence at some of the bloodiest battles in the conflict, such as Antietam, fought in September 1862. One time, a bullet ripped through her sleeve and struck the man she was nursing.

Barton mastered the administration of nursing – gathering supplies, recovering soldiers' luggage and searching for missing men – and the emotional care, as she spent hours praying for the wounded. No wonder that one surgeon, Dr James Dunn, wrote: "In my feeble estimation, [Union] General McClellan, with all his laurels, sinks into insignificance, beside the true heroine of the age, the angel of the battlefield."

GETTY IMAGES X1, ALAMY X1



FIGHT SCHOOL
Spartan warriors underwent gruelling training from childhood – with beatings meted out on the boys deemed the weakest

When did the Spartans start military training?

SHORT ANSWER When Sparta expected their men to give everything to the army, they meant their sons too

LONG ANSWER The Spartans wouldn't have got where they did if they hadn't started training and preparing their warriors at a young age. At just seven years old, all Spartan boys were taken from their parents and thrown into the unforgiving, state-sponsored education system called *agoge*. Its goals were to instil in every future soldier the principles that Sparta held absolute: loyalty, discipline, strength and endurance – and it used brutal methods to achieve them.

The boys would be barefoot with only one cloak all year round; they made their own beds out of reeds from the river; and they were encouraged to steal food and fight each other to survive. Inspections were frequent, with those not deemed strong enough being flogged.

Agoge lasted until a Spartan man turned 30, at which time he could start his own family, but never forget that his devotion was always, and above all things, to the state.

1

The number of thumbs belonging to a bride and groom at a wedding on 14 February 1784 in Derby. The groom had four and the bride had three.

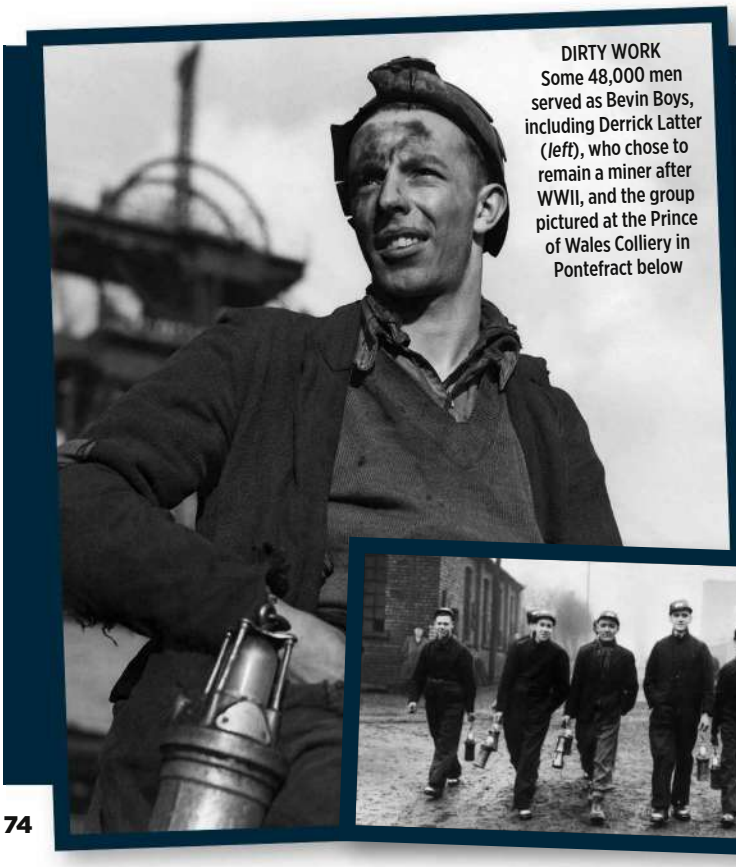
What is Mayincatec?

SHORT ANSWER A pernicious media misrepresentation of the pre-Colombian civilisations

LONG ANSWER The vast majority of representations of indigenous peoples in Central and South America in film and television do not depict a single culture – say, the Maya – but a visual and societal hodgepodge of all of them into one screen-friendly image. This is derogatively known as 'Mayincatec', a conflation of Maya, Inca and Aztec.

Typical Mayincatec depictions are all human sacrifice, rituals and curses, and a jumble of artistic and architectural elements – plus a general focus on the white explorers in their lands, from conquistadors to Indiana Jones in the *Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*. In real life, the Maya of Mesoamerica, Inca of Peru and Aztec of Mexico were their own distinct cultures and, separated by hundreds of miles, had nothing to do with each other.

A CAREER IN RUINS
Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (2008) is rife with Mayincatec imagery



DIRTY WORK
Some 48,000 men served as Bevin Boys, including Derrick Latter (*left*), who chose to remain a miner after WWII, and the group pictured at the Prince of Wales Colliery in Pontefract below

Who were the Bevin Boys?

SHORT ANSWER To keep the war e ort supplied with coal, young conscripts served on the underground frontline

LONG ANSWER During the early years of World War II, coal production in Britain fell into decline, partly due to the large proportion of the mining workforce that had left to serve in the armed forces. This led Minister of Labour and National Service Ernest Bevin to take drastic action and conscript men to help make up the shortfall. Every month, a number was drawn from a homburg hat, and any 18–25 year old whose last digit of their national service number matched was redirected to be a 'Bevin Boy'.

Some 48,000 men were forced into the coal industry with four weeks of training and a pair of steel-toed boots and helmet made of compressed cardboard. Not all went happily, as around 40 per cent of those conscripted appealed and even faced prison. And for those who did serve, it was a thankless task as they faced prejudice from local populations who thought they were cowards for not fighting.

GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X4

BOTTLING IT ALL UP
A Molotov cocktail 'factory' during WWII. Despite the weapon's name, it was not invented by Vyacheslav Molotov himself

Did Molotov create the Molotov cocktail?

SHORT ANSWER First used in Spain, this explosive cocktail was an unwanted tipple for the Soviet foreign minister

LONG ANSWER Vyacheslav Molotov was Joseph Stalin's right-hand man: an old Bolshevik and foreign minister. But while the simple-to-make incendiary device – a glass bottle filled with a flammable liquid with a cloth wick sticking out the neck – bears his name, he was neither its inventor nor ordered its use.

Such petrol bombs appeared during the Spanish Civil War in 1936, when Nationalist forces realised that filling small containers with something explosive and hurling them towards the enemy made for an effective method of taking out the Republicans' tanks. The name came three years later in a different conflict: the Winter War between the Soviet Union and Finland.

Molotov had been key to a treaty with the Nazis, the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact that secretly divided Eastern Europe into German and Russian spheres of influence. This gave the Red Army the green light to invade Finland, and made Molotov somewhat disliked.

Then when he claimed that the ensuing Soviet bombings were actually humanitarian aid drops, the Finns had found the focus of their outrage. They referred to the air raids as 'Molotov's picnic baskets'. And what goes well with a picnic? A cocktail. Apparently, Molotov utterly hated the association.

DID YOU KNOW?

NAME SHAMING
When Iranian king Khosrow I captured the city of Antioch in AD 540, he had the population moved to a new city called Weh Antiok Khosrow, which translates as 'Better than Antioch, Khosrow built this'.

STONY FACED
Judges in 12th-century China wore spectacles with lenses of dark quartz. It is said that the eyewear enabled them to hide their reactions from the people brought before them in court.

BABY BOOM
During his life, the renowned English philosopher Thomas Hobbes claimed that he had been born prematurely as a result of his mother's fear at the sailing of the Spanish Armada in 1588.

COME AGAIN
Captain Sir Mansfield Smith-Cumming, first chief of the British Secret Intelligence Service, devised a rather disgusting option for invisible ink for his agents: semen. "Every man his own stylo," was his motto.

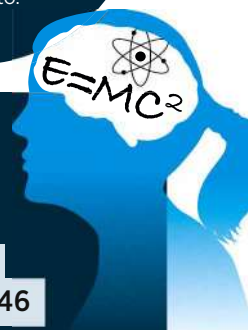
Who invented earmuffs?

SHORT ANSWER An American teenager had a stroke of inspiration and the world was all ears

LONG ANSWER Although it is unlikely that Chester Greenwood was the first to cover the ears with something warm, he patented his design and so is remembered as the inventor of the modern earmuff. Not bad for a 15 year old. A boy with sensitive ears and allergies to the wool caps or scarves everyone wore in the cold, Greenwood asked his grandmother in 1873 to mock up an idea that came to him while ice skating: pads of beaver fur or flannel (the stories differ) attached around the ears by a band of wire.

That was only the beginning. Within a decade he had a factory producing tens of thousands of his improved 'Champion Ear Protectors' a year, and his hometown of Farmington became known as the 'earmuff capital of the world' when he started supplying the US Army in World War I. To this day, the state of Maine celebrates 'Chester Greenwood Day' every December.

When was Mensa formed?



SHORT ANSWER A meeting on a train led to its creation in 1946

LONG ANSWER Australian barrister Roland Berrill got chatting to British scientist Lance Ware on a train, and together they came up with a new society for those with a high IQ. This idea picked up steam after the train journey was over, and, on 1 October 1946, Mensa was founded. The only criteria was an IQ in the top two per cent of the population. The name comes from the Latin for 'table', but is also similar to 'mind' and 'month' – fitting for a society of great minds who meet around a table. It would be hard to get around a table now, though, with 145,000 members worldwide.

A NOVEL ACHIEVEMENT
Murasaki Shikibu depicted inside the Ishiyama-dera Temple in Ōtsu, where she began penning her masterpiece

3 MILLION
The estimated number of shipwrecks on the ocean floor. Less than one per cent have been discovered and explored.

What was the world's first novel?

SHORT ANSWER It somewhat depends on what deffnes a novel, but *The Tale of Genji* has it all

LONG ANSWER The most common answer to this question is *fi e Tale of Genji*, by Murasaki Shikibu, an epic piece of Japanese literature written in the early 11th century. Of course, written stories pre-date that – other historic titles that are commonly mentioned include the first-century AD Greek tale *Callirhoe* or the Roman story from the second century AD delightfully called *fi e Golden Ass* – but in terms of what is understood by the modern novel, *Genji* clinches it.

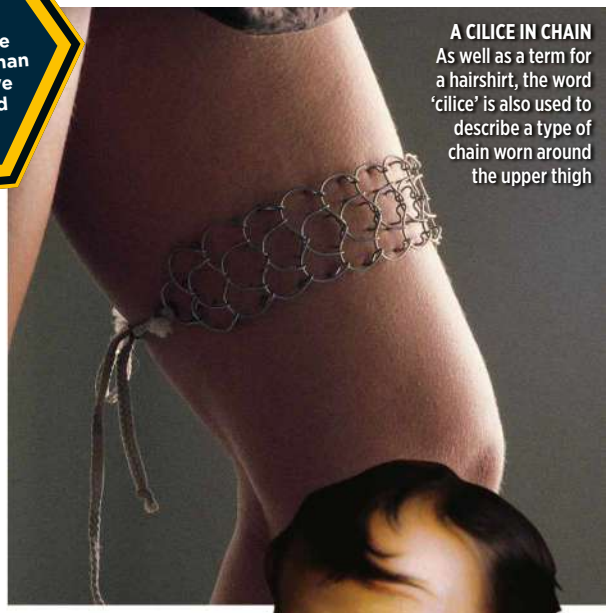
It tells the life and romances of Genji, a disowned son of an emperor with a Casanova-like reputation, while depicting Japanese aristocratic society in elaborate detail. What makes the novel even more groundbreaking is that it was penned by a female author (in a script only used by the women of the court), and was a sensation at a time when prose was not regarded as highly as poetry. Shikibu's magnum opus would not be translated into English until the 20th century, when versions would reach around 1,300 pages.

What is a cilice?

SHORT ANSWER Either a hairshirt or a barbed metal chain. Either way, it's going to hurt

LONG ANSWER Throughout the centuries, and to this day, some Christians have put faith above comfort by wearing one of the two types of cilice. The first version is better known as a hairshirt, a vest of coarse animal hair intended to scratch and irritate the wearer. Inspired by the fashion sense of John the Baptist, who sported a shirt of camel hair, it is a means of penance – or, at the most extreme, mortification of the flesh much like Jesus Christ suffered.

The word comes from Cilicia in modern-day Turkey, a goat-breeding region that ensured a healthy source of hair. But the other type of cilice is no hairshirt at all, but a metal chain with barbs that can be strapped to the leg for a different kind of penitential pain.



A CILICE IN CHAIN
As well as a term for a hairshirt, the word 'cilice' is also used to describe a type of chain worn around the upper thigh

Was Napoleon defeated by rabbits?

SHORT ANSWER If only the other European powers had thought to attack Napoleon with bunny soldiers

LONG ANSWER The year was 1807 and no man in Europe was as powerful as Napoleon Bonaparte: as emperor of France, he had swatted aside coalitions formed against him with monumental victories at Austerlitz, Jena and Auerstedt. Crushing human soldiers was one thing, though. His tactics proved less effective against an army of rabbits.

That July, after signing the Treaties of Tilsit and ending the War of the Fourth Coalition, Napoleon wanted to celebrate with a good old fashioned bunny hunt. The organisation was left to his chief of staff, Louis-Alexandre Berthier, who got between a few hundred and a few thousand rabbits and set them loose in a field with the emperor's gun-and club-wielding party.

That's when it went wrong. Thinking the humans were bringing food, the long-eared warriors swarmed Napoleon and wouldn't leave him alone until he was forced into retreat in his carriage. Perhaps the Duke of Wellington learned of this humiliation and took some pointers for Waterloo...

HOPPING MAD
Napoleon was furious when his hunt was thwarted by the floppy-eared fiends he was supposed to be catching

GETTY IMAGES X5, ALAMY X2

OVER THE BORDER Henry VIII's invasion of France in 1513 led to Scotland marching on England – culminating in the major Scottish defeat at Flodden Field

How old is the Auld Alliance?

SHORT ANSWER More than 700 years ago, France and Scotland came together in their shared anti-Englishness

LONG ANSWER The purpose of France and Scotland forming the Auld Alliance can be summed up by the adage: "The enemy of my enemy is my friend." Forged on 23 October 1295 by King of Scots John Balliol and Philip IV of France, it stated that if either country was attacked by England, the other would retaliate.

At the time, the Scots were in desperate need of allies to curb the expansionist aims of their neighbour to the south. In practice, the Auld Alliance did not offer the fullest of protections – Edward I of England invaded the following year – but Scots continued to honour their pledge whenever the French got embroiled in one of their many wars with the English. Scottish soldiers could be found on battlefields throughout the Hundred Years' War. In fact, the alliance was renewed by essentially all the monarchs of the two countries well into the 16th century (even if neither were actually at war with England).

Traditionally, the end of the Auld Alliance is dated to the Treaty of Edinburgh in 1560, when all French troops left Scotland for good. But in one of those technical quirks with historic treaties, it was never actually revoked, arguably making it the world's oldest international alliance.

Why do we say 'goodbye'?

SHORT ANSWER It has morphed from the original 16th-century parting phrase

LONG ANSWER With so many variants of goodbye, from 'farewell' to 'see you later, alligator', the word today seems to be regarded with a certain formality, even finality. Yet it was initially imbued with religious significance when leaving someone's company. It comes from 'godbwye', which is itself a shortened way of saying, 'God be with you'. According to records, it started to be widely used around the 1570s, with the first known mention being this comment by English writer Gabriel Harvey, who wrote in 1573: "To requite your gallonde of godbwyes, I regive you a pottle of howdyes." Ok, that's done. Goodbye then.

GIVE US A WAVE! The cheerful 'goodbye' has religious origins, likely dating back to the Elizabethan period

Where did the Celts come from?

SHORT ANSWER The answer to this one is like Disney's greatest works: a fairy tale

LONG ANSWER Today, there are six so-called Celtic nations – Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the Isle of Man, Cornwall and Brittany – but they are where Celtic cultures and languages survived, not where they were born. The origin of the Celts is a hotly debated issue, not least since the term is a tricky one. It was used by the Greeks ('Keltoi') and Romans ('Celtae') as a pejorative for barbarians threatening what they saw as true civilisation.

The Celts were not a distinct race, rather a collection of tribes loosely linked by custom and language. During the first millennium BC, these peoples spread out to the fringes of Europe, from Turkey to Scotland, first emerging from other cultures such as the Urnfield on the River Danube, Hallstatt in modern-day Austria, and La Tène in central Europe. It is generally thought the oldest evidence of Celtic culture comes from 700 BC, in graves of chieftains found near Salzburg, Austria.

ORIGIN STORY The Celts were partly descended from the people of Hallstatt, in what is now Austria

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Sue Perkins (*main*) kicks o the 19th series of *Who Do You Think You Are?* with an episode that sees her research her refugee ancestors, while Richard Osman (*below*), looks back at the life of his grandfather

ONE TO WATCH

It's a family a air

Who Do You Think You Are? / BBC One, starts Thursday 26 May

It's easy to understand why *Who Do You Think You Are?* has enjoyed such longevity. Here is a series that combines our collective fascination with looking beyond the public personas of those in the media spotlight with family history, equally fascinating in that it's tied up with a sense of belonging.

Nevertheless, it's still impressive that the show has racked up 19 series, with the latest episodes presumably filmed while the Covid-19 pandemic was still impacting heavily on work and, in particular, travel. It's a longevity that reflects in part how the series has evolved down the years as research techniques have become more sophisticated.

That said, the heart of *Who Do You Think You Are?* lies in familial relationships and the way the past plays into the present. This latter idea is to the fore in the opening episode, which features comedian and former *Bake Ofi* host, Sue Perkins. It's in part a moving story of refugees forced by conflict to flee across European borders.

There are five episodes in the series, which continues after the long Jubilee weekend with Richard Osman, bestselling crime novelist, quiz show inventor and younger brother of Suede bassist Matt. It's an episode that highlights Osman's strong bond with his maternal grandfather, Frederick Wright. Frederick, we learn, was a military man who had a tough start in life and who saw education as a way to open up opportunities. Because of this, it was especially important for Osman that his late grandfather was able to see him graduate from the University of Cambridge.

In other episodes, Matt Lucas of *Little Britain* and *Shooting Stars* fame charts Jewish roots, an episode in which the Holocaust looms large. Actor Anna Maxwell Martin (*Motherland*, *Line of Duty*) traces her family's origins in Scotland and Northern Ireland. *Death in Paradise* star Ralf Little sees himself as deeply Mancunian, but his research takes in naval history and forebears who worked in the Welsh mines.

ALAMY X1

Sophie Rundle (*left*) and Suranne Jones (*right*) reprise their roles as Yorkshire couple Ann Walker and Anne Lister in *Gentleman Jack*

Silverton Siege dramatises the events of 25 January 1980, when three anti-apartheid freedom fighters in Pretoria found themselves in a tense stand-off inside a bank

Guns at the ready

Silverton Siege / Netflix, streaming now

As the 1980s began, the legislative dismantling of South Africa's apartheid system still lay more than a decade in the future. While the African National Congress (ANC) led the political campaign against a system of institutionalised racial segregation designed to favour the minority white population, there was also armed resistance. This was centred on the ANC's military wing, uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK), which was founded by Nelson Mandela in the wake of the 1960 Sharpeville massacre.

Inevitably, taking on the South African regime directly was an undertaking fraught with danger, as the feature-length *Silverton Siege* dramatises. It's a story based on events that played out on 25 January 1980, when a trio of MK fighters were sent on a mission to sabotage a petrol depot. Tailed by the police, they took shelter in a bank. Here, they held customers and staff members hostage, and the siege that gives the film its name ensued.

Among other demands, the fighters wanted the release of Mandela, but their standoff with the authorities eventually ended, without giving too much away, with bloodshed and tragedy.

Silverton Siege takes some liberties with the historical timeline as events play out in action-thriller style, but that's certainly forgivable considering how many incidents from South Africa's recent past even now remain comparatively unknown outside the country. Thabo Rametsi, Noxolo Dlamini and Stefan Erasmus play the MK trio, while Arnold Vosloo portrays the cop charged with negotiating with them and trying to ensure nobody is killed as the situation escalates.

Thabo Rametsi, Noxolo Dlamini and Stefan Erasmus (*left to right*) play the trio at the heart of the story

Unconventional lives

Gentleman Jack / BBC One and BBC iPlayer, on TV and streaming now

If the first season of *Gentleman Jack* seemed largely concerned with Anne Lister (Suranne Jones) battling the social and sexual mores of a narrow society, the new season seems intent on widening out the story. Most obviously, there's the daring honeymoon taken by Lister and Ann Walker (Sophie Rundle), and their determination to combine their estates and build a life together.

But whatever is happening, the gift of writer Sally Wainwright (*Last Tango in Halifax*, *Happy Valley*) for characterisation is as vivid as ever, evidenced by the introduction of new characters such as Lister's outrageous former lover, Isabella 'Tib' Norcliffe (Joanna Scanlan). As before, the drama draws extensively on the real-life diaries of Anne Lister (1791–1840), who has been called "the first modern lesbian".

The Queen pictured at her 1953 coronation (*main*) and on a visit to Germany in 2015 (*inset*). A new Im charts her remarkable 70-year reign

BBC/LOOKOUT POINT/HBO/JAY BROOKS X1, NEO BAEPI-NETFLIX X2, GETTY IMAGES X2

Overcoming adversity

Ceaușescu's Children / BBC Radio 4, Monday 13 June

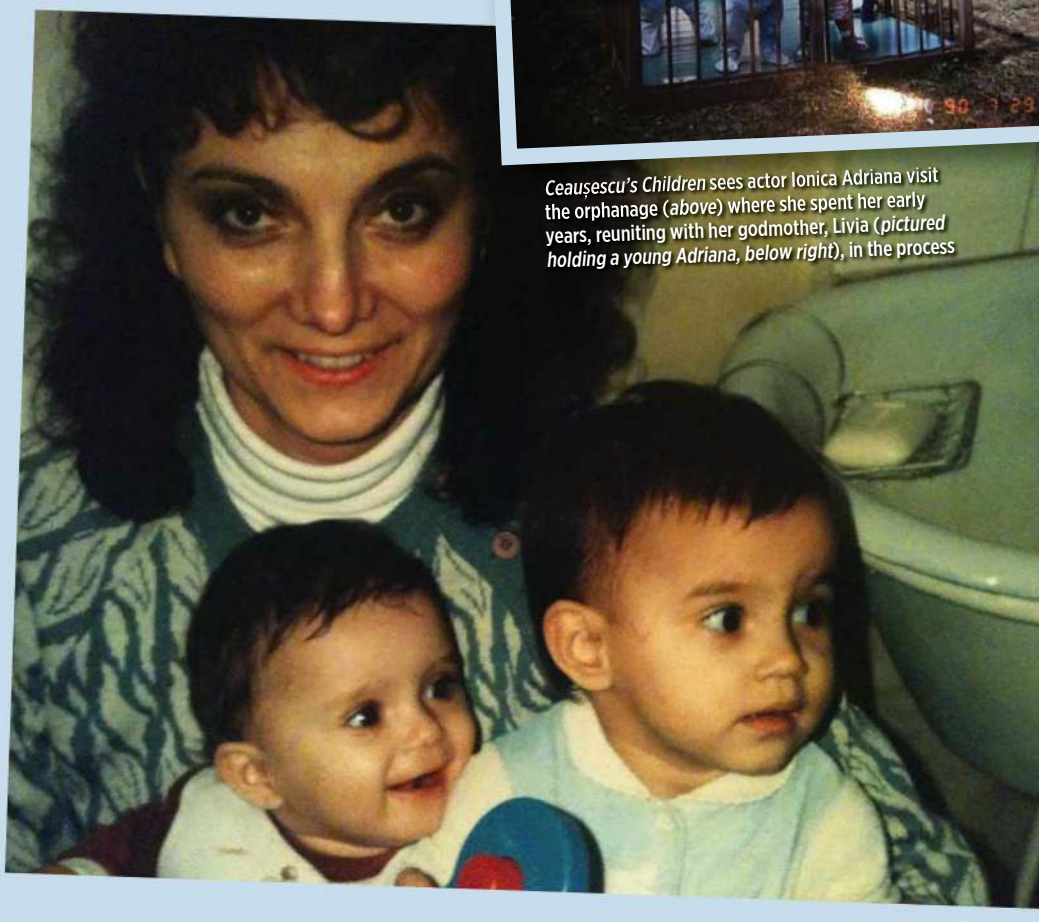
In December 1989, the Romanian people overthrew the hated dictator Nicolae Ceaușescu. In the aftermath of the revolution, the world learnt about the terrible conditions many in the country had to endure – and particularly those who lived in its orphanages.

Under Ceaușescu, who thought the Romanian population should double, birth control and abortions were outlawed, and incentives were introduced to encourage women to have more children. But many parents couldn't afford to look after their offspring, and the country's state-run orphanages began to fill up.

Conditions in these institutions were often terrible, with filthy children left to fend for themselves, and shocked the world when they were revealed in news reports.

The actor Ionica Adriana, who now lives in North Yorkshire, spent her first two and a half years in an orphanage, located in Cluj-Napoca, Transylvania. How different might her life have been had she stayed in the country of her birth rather than being adopted by British parents?

In a one-off documentary, Adriana returns to Cluj-Napoca. In part, it's a journey into the past as Adriana considers the troubled history of Romania's orphanages and meets her godmother, Livia; but she also looks at the state of childcare and protection in Romania today (the country banned international adoptions in 2004).



Ceaușescu's Children sees actor Ionica Adriana visit the orphanage (*above*) where she spent her early years, reuniting with her godmother, Livia (*pictured holding a young Adriana, below right*), in the process

Majestic life

Elizabeth: A Portrait in Parts

In cinemas from Friday 27 May

Shortly before he died in late 2021, director Roger Michell (*Notting Hill*, *The Duke*) completed his final feature, a documentary charting the remarkable life and times of Queen Elizabeth II. "She's the *Mona Lisa*, instantly recognisable, and yet elusively and perpetually unknowable," Michell wrote on a website for the film. "She's more famous than The Beatles. She's a Queen in a castle in a fairy story. Or the Queen in a hard-hat opening a recycling factory."

These are words that capture the extraordinary sense of the Queen being a constant and multifaceted presence in our lives. His documentary, rather than offering a conventional narrative history, explores this idea. There's also a sense of playful irreverence. "We grew up loving the Queen," notes Sir Paul McCartney in the trailer. "To us teenagers, she was a babe."

As you would expect, with a long weekend to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee set aside in the national calendar in early June, the BBC will be covering the celebrations extensively. Among the documentary offerings, *Archive on 4: Encounters with Elizabeth* (BBC Radio 4, Saturday 4 June) looks particularly intriguing as it charts the Queen's life via her interactions with some of the more interesting characters she has met down the years.

▶▶ Turn to page 57 for an A-Z of Queen Elizabeth II's life and reign

In the moment

I Was There / Sky History, starts Tuesday 17 May

If only we could go back in time to see what really happened as the events that shaped our world played out. As yet, this is impossible, but a new Sky History series attempts to imagine what it might be like as its host, the actor Theo Wilson (*pictured*), 'time-travels' to pivotal moments of the past.

Wilson, it turns out, is a history enthusiast whose interest in the topic was partly inspired by admiration for his grandfather, one of the pioneering Tuskegee Airmen of World War II.

MAIN: **Founded in 1872, the Royal School of Needlework (RSN) still teaches students in its home at Hampton Court Palace**

RIGHT: **An embroidered Japanese bento box by recent RSN graduate Sara-Jane Dennis**

BELOW: **The Robe of Estate worn by Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, which is on display in the school's new exhibition at the Fashion and Textile Museum**

ROYAL SCHOOL OF NEEDLEWORK X2. ROYAL COLLECTION TRUST/HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II 2022, THE TRUSTEES OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM

EXHIBITION

150 Years of the Royal School of Needlework: Crown to Catwalk

PAID ENTRY Fashion and Textile Museum, London, until 4 September, *fashiontextilemuseum.org*

Founded in 1872, the defining principles of the Royal School of Needlework (RSN) were initially to revive the art of hand embroidery and to provide employment for educated women who had fallen on hard times. A century and a half later, the RSN's rich history is being celebrated in a new exhibition at the Fashion and Textile Museum.

The RSN is located at Hampton Court Palace, and its long association with the royal family – Queen Victoria was its first patron, her third daughter, Princess Helena, its first president – is reflected in such exhibition highlights as the Robe of Estate of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, and the coronation mantle of Edward VII. In its early years, the RSN was also connected to the Arts and Crafts movement, which is represented in the exhibition with motifs designed by the likes of William Morris and Walter Crane.

As well as showcasing beautiful creations, the retrospective examines the RSN's work in the community, such as when the school taught embroidery to veterans of World War I as a form of therapy.

POLICE NEWS
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A report on the 1888 'Jack the Ripper' murders (*left*) and the oldest piece of printed news from Great Britain (*right*)

EXHIBITION

Breaking the News

PAID ENTRY British Library, London, until 21 August, *bl.uk*

What role does news play in society? Can it ever be truly objective? And why are we so drawn to crime stories and sensationalism? Those are just some of the questions underpinning a recently opened exhibition at the British Library, curated in partnership with the media marketing body Newsworks.

Entitled Breaking the News, the interactive exhibition examines the ethics of newsgathering and reporting over the past five centuries, spanning the earliest printed news pamphlets to the rise of social media.

Artefacts on display include the earliest surviving piece of printed news in Britain, dated 1513; the first edition of John Milton's pamphlet on freedom of speech, *Areopagitica*, published in 1644; and a radio script from 6 June 1944, when news of the D-Day landings was announced to the public.

EXHIBITION

A British Museum Spotlight Loan: Troy – Beauty and Heroism

FREE ENTRY The McManus Art Gallery & Museum, Dundee, 19 May – 14 August, *mcmanus.co.uk*

Visitors to Dundee's McManus Art Gallery & Museum will be able to delve into the myths and legends surrounding Troy in a new exhibition opening this summer.

Focusing on beauty and heroism, the free display will showcase a selection of artefacts on loan from the British Museum, including an Etruscan urn decorated with images of Helen's abduction by Paris (*pictured below*), as well as an Athenian *amphora* (jar) featuring scenes of brutality meted out by the warrior Achilles.

The exhibition will also feature paintings by the likes of Dante Gabriel Rossetti (1828–82), revealing how later artists have been captivated by the story of the Trojan War.

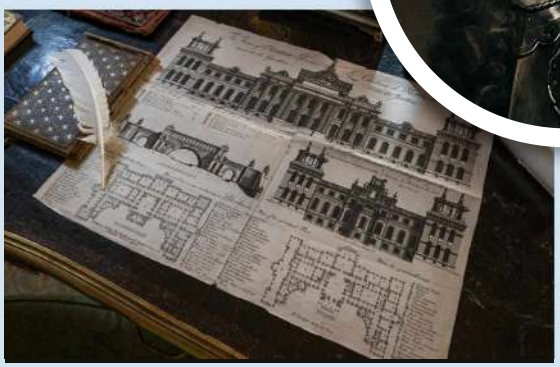
EXHIBITION

Battle fields and Baroque

PAID ENTRY Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire, until 19 June, *blenheimpalace.com*

When John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough (*below right*) emerged triumphant during the early years of the War of the Spanish Succession (1701–15), Queen Anne rewarded him with a lavish new home, Blenheim Palace, named after the battle in which he secured one of his most stunning victories.

To mark the 300th anniversary of Churchill's death, Blenheim is hosting a new immersive exhibition, giving visitors a sense of what it would have been like to step into the general's shoes. As well as being able to view a recreated court feast and architectural plans from the period (*below*), visitors are also treated to a look at costumes from *The Favourite* – the award-winning 2018 film centred on the romantic relationship between Queen Anne and Churchill's wife, Sarah.



MUSEUM OPENING

Queer Britain

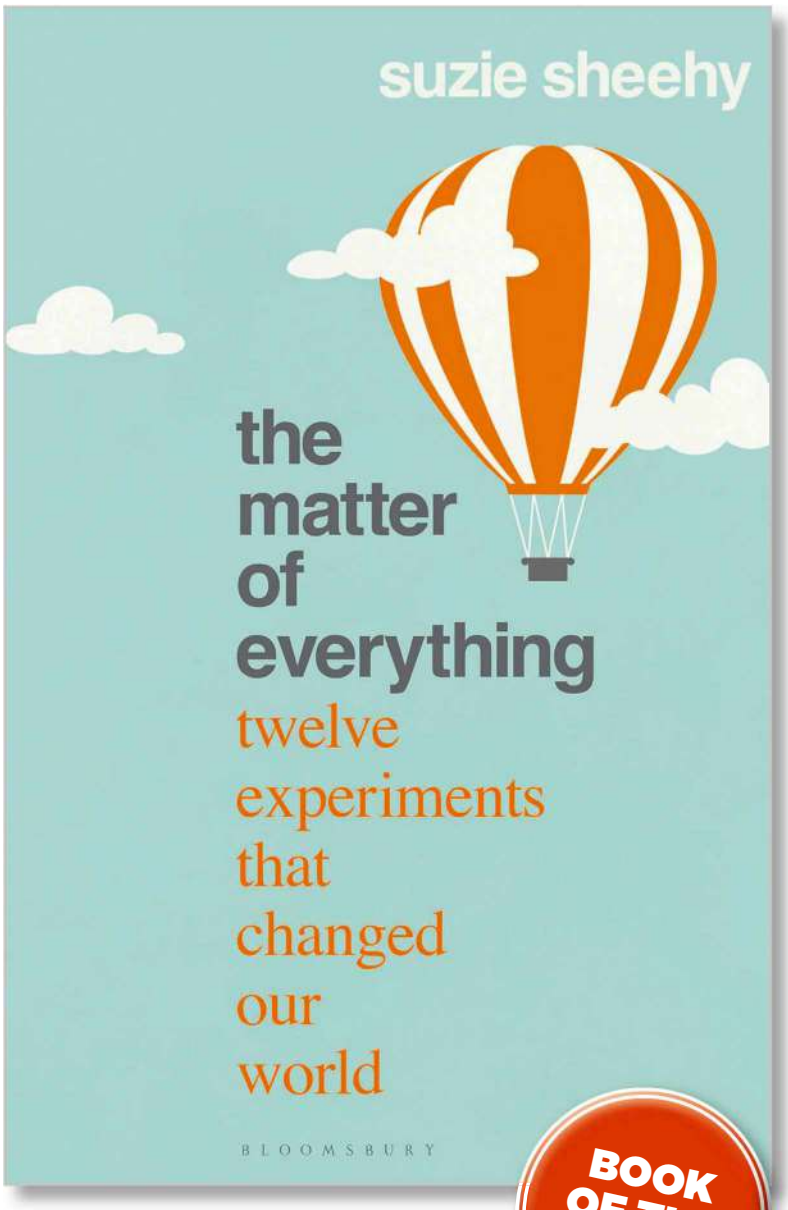
FREE ENTRY London, open from 5 May, *queerbritain.org.uk*

The UK's first dedicated LGBTQ+ museum will be opening its doors to the public for the first time this May. Originally established as a charity in 2018, Queer Britain – now located at a physical site in King's Cross – intends to shine a light on the history and culture of LGBTQ+ people in the UK and beyond, and is designed as an inclusive space for all.

The museum will initially open with a temporary display entitled Welcome to Queer Britain, curated by Matthew Storey from Historic Royal Palaces, with the first full exhibition at the site due to be announced soon. The museum will be free to visit, and will boast four galleries, a workshop, and an education space.

BOOKS & PODCASTS

THIS MONTH'S BEST HISTORICAL READS AND LISTENS



BOOK OF THE MONTH

The Matter of Everything: Twelve Experiments that Changed Our World

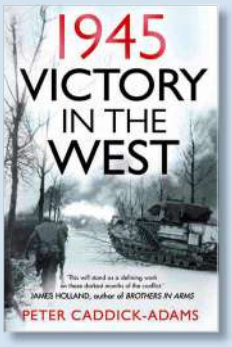
By Suzie Sheehy
Bloomsbury, £20, hardback, 336 pages

From quarks and neutrinos to synchrotrons and linear accelerators, some of the discoveries and innovations in this look at a dozen experiments conducted since the early 20th century can seem a little alienating. But have no fear: this accessible account foregrounds their life-changing, real-world applications, as well as what their stories tell us about curiosity, teamwork and practical investigation. It also suggests that, far from being the preserve of a select few, such skills may be a key strength of the entire human species.

1945: Victory in the West

By Peter Caddick-Adams
Hutchinson Heinemann, £30, hardback, 688 pages

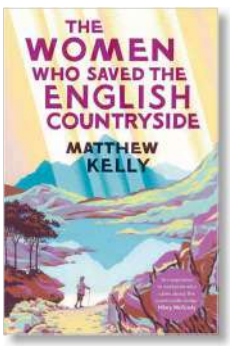
As the bloodshed and brutality of World War II rolled into the spring of 1945, it seemed that Allied victory might, at last, be at hand. Yet as this masterful account from leading expert Peter Caddick-Adams chronicles, the final stretch of the conflagration was marked by bitter fighting, fierce resistance and – as the troops arrived at the Nazis' concentration camps – deep horror. Mixing big-picture narrative with personal testimony, this is a vivid take on the final days of the conflict.

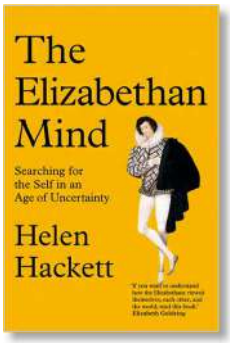


The Women Who Saved the English Countryside

By Matthew Kelly
Yale, £20, hardback, 400 pages

Focusing on four women who reshaped access to, and attitudes towards, the English countryside, this joint biography also highlights the places they fought to save and the power of painstaking, persistent activism. Octavia Hill co-founded the National Trust; author Beatrix Potter was one of its most important benefactors; Pauline Dower shaped England's system of national parks; and Sylvia Sayer harnessed political pressure to save her beloved Dartmoor. This is a welcome celebration of environmental heroes who deserve to be better known.





The Elizabethan Mind: Searching for the Self in an Age in Uncertainty

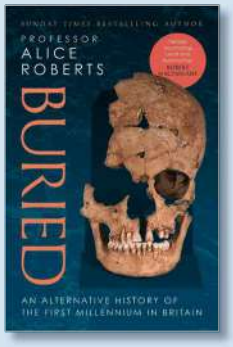
By Helen Hackett
Yale, £25, hardback, 448 pages

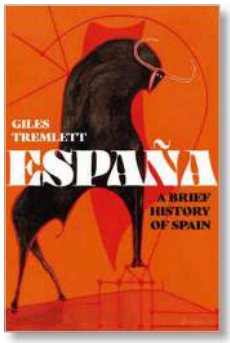
Much as we are today, the Elizabethans were fascinated by the inner workings of their brains – and, thanks to the burgeoning print industry, had plenty of advice to turn to. Yet, as this book reveals, that advice was drawn from diverse, contradictory sources (astrology, the Bible, classical texts), with new scientific discoveries further muddling the brew. This enthralling study captures the changing ways in which the mind was understood, and the thought processes of a society that continues to captivate today.

Buried: An Alternative History of the First Millennium in Britain

By Alice Roberts
Simon & Schuster, £20, hardback, 352 pages

Author, broadcaster and anatomist Alice Roberts returns with this look at what the long dead can tell us about life in ancient Britain. This time around, she's focusing on the first thousand years AD through a selection of stories: of her research, of the individuals whose remains have been examined using the latest scientific techniques, and of the lives they would have led, the things they would have believed, and the culture of which they were a part.





España: A Brief History of Spain

By Giles Tremlett
Apollo, £25, hardback, 320 pages

Charting the geographical, political and cultural currents that have combined to create modern Spain, this concise, incisive history doesn't shy away from the fractures that these diverse influences have sometimes caused. Nor does it avoid darker episodes, from the Inquisition to conquistadors, Fascism to financial irregularity. Yet this remains throughout a rounded picture of the nation's rich and varied past, and is a great place to start if you're looking for a compelling overview of thousands of years of history.

PODCAST WHAT TO LISTEN TO...

Each month we bring you three of our favourite podcasts from the BBC and HistoryExtra

Bridgerton: Behind the scenes of season two

bit.ly/BridgertonPod108

If you're a big fan of Netflix's hit series *Bridgerton*, which returned for a second season this spring, then you're in for a treat with this podcast episode. Speaking with presenter Elinor Evans, historical consultant Hannah Greig takes us behind the scenes, and shares her expert insights into the real period that inspired the drama.

How to Invent a Country: Poland

bbc.in/3JyYC0Y

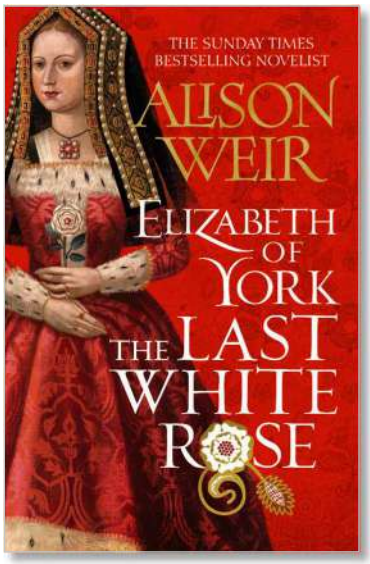
This series charting the process by which nations come into being returns for a new run exploring the story of Poland – which, as presenter Misha Glenny notes, ceased to exist between 1795 and 1918. This is a fascinating look at why that happened, how the country was revived, and the political echoes that continue to be felt in 2022.

In Our Time: Polidori's 'The Vampyre'

bbc.in/3E8vehi

His name may not be widely known now, but John Polidori (1795–1821) is responsible for the first modern story featuring one of literature's most enduring creations: the vampire. This edition of Melvyn Bragg's long-running series delves into the story's influences and why the bloodsucking fiends still stake a claim on our imaginations today.

GETTY IMAGES X2



Elizabeth of York: The Last White Rose

By Alison Weir
Headline, £20, hardback, 544 pages

The eldest daughter of the royal House of York, Elizabeth dreams of a crown to call her own. But when her father dies suddenly, her destiny is rewritten. Soon, her two young brothers have disappeared, and her uncle has seized power – vowing to make Elizabeth his queen. But when the upstart son of the rival House of Lancaster seeks the throne, there is a chance to unite England's two warring dynasties and change everything. Elizabeth must choose her allies – and husband – wisely, and fight for her right to rule.

Excerpt

A four-year-old Elizabeth of York wonders where her beloved father has gone, and whether he will come back home to sit on the throne again

She had known she was important for as long as she could remember. She was nearly five years old and the eldest daughter of a golden king and a beautiful queen, and she lived in wondrous glittering palaces, just like a princess in a fable. She had been called Elizabeth after her mother, who often wore the jewelled brooch that Father had given her to mark her birth. In normal circumstances, Mother was a remote figure to her daughters, an elegant, graceful goddess who sat on a throne and sometimes descended on the nursery in a cloud of floral perfume, swishing her fabulous damask skirts, her neck like a swan's under the shaven hairline and the gauze-covered hennin.

Mother was remote and regal, but Father was fun, a towering, boisterous figure with a twinkling eye and a merry laugh that belied his narrow, watchful eyes. He was the handsomest man in the world, and everyone adored him, especially his children. His court was famed far and wide for its grandeur; it bustled with great lords and ladies and visitors from all four corners of the earth. Elizabeth had often felt fit to burst with pride, having such a strong and splendid father. Now she wondered if he would ever come back to sit on his throne. Would she even see him again? Where was he?

Q&A
Alison Weir

Alison Weir is Britain's top-selling female historian. Her works include the *Six Tudor Queens* series of novels, as well as the recent non-fiction book *Queens of the Crusades*. Her latest novel, *Elizabeth of York: The Last White Rose*, is the first instalment of Alison's new *Tudor Rose* trilogy.

What made you want to explore the life of Elizabeth of York for your new novel?
I love that transitory late 15th-century period, which witnessed a dramatic change of dynasty, and the fact that Elizabeth's life is surrounded by mysteries – notably the fate of her younger brothers, the Princes in the Tower, and her relations with her uncle, Richard III. I wanted to explore those aspects in fiction.

How important was Elizabeth's marriage to Henry Tudor in uniting the two warring houses of York and Lancaster?
She was the crucial link, the channel through whom the royal bloodline was transmitted. In fact, she was the true Queen of England. In a later age, she would have reigned as such.

How much of an influence did Elizabeth have on her son, Henry VIII?
She had a considerable impact on him, I believe. Henry lost his mother when he was 11, too young to see her as less than perfect. She fitted the medieval ideal of a queen, which he probably expected his wives to emulate.

Was it easier to tell Elizabeth's story compared to those of the wives of Henry VIII, who are already familiar figures to most readers?
No, because there are far fewer sources relating to Elizabeth, and I had to make some difficult decisions. Although I had previously researched Elizabeth for a biography and there are some good records, such as her privy purse accounts, I also used some controversial sources. These included an account of a letter that she wrote pushing for her marriage to Richard III, and 'The Song of Lady Bessy', a contemporary ballad that tells of her energetic efforts to raise support for Richard's rival, Henry Tudor.

Could you tell us more about the other two books you have planned for the *Tudor Rose* trilogy?
The remaining books in the series will cover the lives of Henry VIII and Mary I, as related from their points of view. I'm writing about Henry right now – no pressure there! The trilogy spans three generations of the same family and is a companion piece to my earlier *Six Tudor Queens* series of novels about the wives of Henry VIII. Now it's time for Henry to have his say!

CROSSWORD

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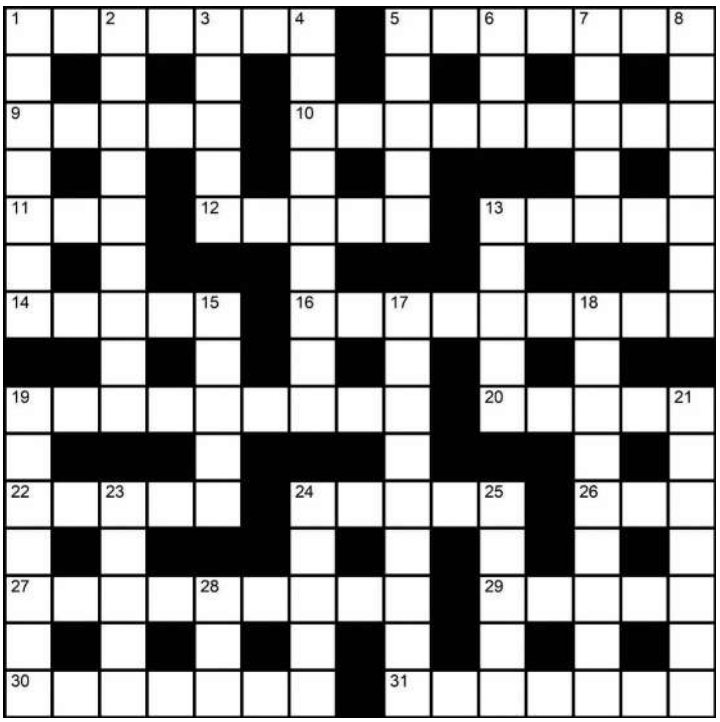
ACROSS

1 Aaron ___ (1900–90), US composer (7)
5 Joe ___ (1944–2011), Heavyweight Champion of the World from 1970 to 1973 (7)
9 Welsh town near the Roman fort of Nidum (5)
10 Town in the historic county of Cheshire, formerly known for silk and hats (9)
11 Faun-like Greek god (3)
12 1971 crime action film starring Richard Roundtree (5)
13 High rank in the Ottoman political system (5)
14 Robert Falcon ___ (1868–1912), Antarctic explorer (5)
16 London thoroughfare (3,6)
19 Medieval sultanate of Somalia (9)
20 Fabulist of ancient Greece (5)
22 A west African country governed by Hamani Diori from 1960 to 1974 (5)
24 "The shot ___ round the world" – RW Emerson on the beginning of the American Revolutionary War (5)
26 Second imperial dynasty of China (3)
27 Turkish peninsula, site of an Allied campaign in WWI (9)
29 10th-century Viking ruler of Normandy (5)
30 Forest of northern France, scene of fierce fighting during World War II (7)
31 Capital of Cyprus since the 10th century (7)

DOWN

1 Town of ancient Thrace (7)
2 Liturgical chant used in western Christianity (9)
3 Trophy contested by the cricket teams of England and Australia since 1882 (5)
4 René ___ (1596–1650), French philosopher (9)
5 Robert ___ (1874–1963), US poet (5)
6 Vessel built by Noah (3)
7 Jeremy ___ (b1948), English actor (5)
8 Historic county neighbouring Leicestershire (7)
13 Ancient city of southern Jordan (5)
15 English royal house founded by Henry VII (5)
17 "___, ___ and ___" – Tony Blair, 1996 (9)
18 Tragedian of ancient Greece (9)
19 City of Nicaragua, struck by an earthquake in 1972 (7)
21 In Greek myth, the first woman (7)
23 Soviet forced labour camp (5)
24 Robert ___ (1635–1703), English polymath (5)
25 Style of ancient Greek architecture (5)
28 Historic barristers' association – Gray's or Lincoln's, perhaps (3)



Set by Richard Smyth

CHANCE TO WIN

The Courier
Starring Benedict Cumberbatch, Merab Ninidze and Rachel Brosnahan

HOW TO ENTER

Post entries to **BBC History Revealed, June 2022 Crossword, PO Box 501, Leicester, LE94 0AA** or email them to **june2022@historyrevealedcomps.co.uk** by noon on **1 July 2022**.

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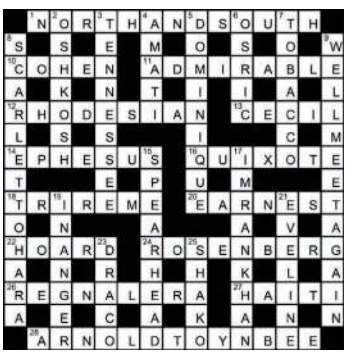

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The competition is open to all UK residents (inc. Channel Islands), aged 18 or over, except Immediate Media Co London Ltd employees or contractors, and anyone connected with the competition or their direct family members. By entering, participants agree to be bound by these terms and conditions and that their name and county may be released if they win. Only one entry per person.

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LETTERS

BOXING CLEVER

I read your piece on left-handedness in history by Dr Deborah Thorpe (March 2022) with interest. I write about boxing, and 'southpaws' [boxers who stand with their right foot in the front and left foot in the back] had a very bad time in boxing for many years.

Probably less than 10 per cent of boxers were left-handed, and fighters did not like facing someone who boxed with a different style, so they avoided them. That meant there was little need for left-handed sparring partners, which in turn led to there being fewer boxers who wanted to box left-handed since they had fewer chances of getting a fight. One world champion, after struggling to look good against a southpaw, suggested that southpaws should be drowned at birth. It was not until the 1960s and 1970s that attitudes began to change, with much of the impetus coming from a younger generation who were more receptive to change.

While they are still in the minority, many of the best fighters in the world are southpaws, including Scotland's world champion, Josh Taylor, as well as Terence Crawford, Oleksandr Usyk and Filipino Manny Pacquiao – the biggest sports star in his country's history.

There might be a 70/30 ratio of orthodox [boxers who stand with their left foot in the front and right foot in the back] to southpaw, but there is no longer any stigma in boxing associated with being left-handed.

Eric Armit, by email

MAIN: **Famous southpaw Terence Crawford (*right*) ghts Shawn Porter in 2021. Reader Eric Armit was prompted to get in touch to discuss the boxing stance after reading our recent feature on left-handedness in history**

BELOW: **Reader Paul Munnery asks what would have happened if Princess Margaret, seen here with her partner Peter Townsend in 1955, had taken the throne**

GETTY IMAGES X2

MISSED OPPORTUNITY?

In your Christmas 2021 issue, you included a very interesting 'In a Nutshell' piece on the US Emancipation Proclamation.

However, in addressing 'What attempts had been made to ban slavery before the Emancipation Proclamation?' you failed to note a significant effort by Abraham Lincoln in late November 1861, when he proposed a plan for gradual emancipation state by state, financed with US bonds that would pay out in 31 annual instalments.

Lincoln tested this idea in the small border slave state of Delaware. The smart political idea was that if the idea worked in tiny Delaware, it might spread to the other border states, and might even become attractive to some states in the Deep South. Unfortunately, this creative idea of Lincoln's failed in the Delaware House of Representatives in February 1862, more than six months before the Emancipation Proclamation.

T Downey, Maryland, US

ALTERNATIVE HISTORY

As an avid reader of your magazine for several years, I particularly like the 'What if…' column. I have recently started watching *The Crown* on Netflix and I have come up with my own 'What if…'

According to one story – whether it is true or false doesn't really matter – Princess Elizabeth didn't want to be the heir to the throne, but her younger sister Princess Margaret would have loved it.

What if Princess Margaret had been able to become the heir and, later, queen? Would the public have put up with her flamboyant ways? Would the monarchy have become irrelevant? How might she have treated her prime ministers and serious matters of state?

Obviously, Peter Townsend [her romantic partner during the early 1950s] wouldn't have got close to her. Her eventual husband, Antony Armstrong-Jones, would have carried on being a 'lounge lizard'. She may have been married off to a European prince – even Prince Philip, if Princess Elizabeth hadn't managed to marry him before Princess Margaret became available.

One imagines Margaret would have still lived her life to the full, not worrying about what people thought, and the Palace would have been in a state of constant turmoil.

Princess Elizabeth may have been happier being a naval wife if she had still managed to marry Philip. And he might have been happier being the man of the house rather than the Queen's consort.

Thankfully it didn't happen, and I for one am glad we have had Queen Elizabeth II as our monarch for the past 70 years.

Paul Munnery, Cambridge

NEXT ISSUE

··· ON SALE 10 JUNE ···

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

Discover how law and order has been enforced in Britain over the centuries – from capital punishment and incarceration, to the first bobbies on the beat

PLUS... KLAUS FUCHS AND THE ATOMIC BOMB SPOTLIGHT ON WAR POET SIEGFRIED SASSOON **IN A NUTSHELL: THE SAS** THE MATCHGIRLS' STRIKE **WHAT IF... THE BLACK DEATH HAD NEVER HAPPENED?** AND MUCH MORE...

CROSSWORD WINNERS

The three lucky winners of the prize crossword in issue 105 are as follows:

H Harrison, Bristol
V Poulston, Cheshire
R Smith, North Yorkshire

Congratulations! You've each won a free copy of *Britannia* series 3 on DVD.

We will post your prizes out as soon as possible.

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BBC HISTORY REVEALED

ISSUE 108 – JUNE 2022
BBC History Revealed is published by Immediate Media Company London Limited under licence from BBC Studios who help fund new BBC programmes

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Basic annual subscription rates
UK £64.87 **Eire/Europe** £67.99
ROW £69.00

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ALAMY

PHOTO FINISH

ARRESTING IMAGES FROM THE ANNALS OF THE PAST

WHEN CLINTON MET KENNEDY 1963

No one would have realised it at the time, but this photograph would later take on a profound historical signiTnance. Snapped at a youth leadership conference in July 1963, it shows the future 42nd US president Bill Clinton, then aged 16, shaking hands with the 35th president, John F Kennedy. Though they only met for a few seconds, the moment had a profound impact on the young Clinton. He would later go on to say that his brief encounter with JFK, along with watching Martin Luther King Jr's 'I Have a Dream' speech the same year, were the two catalysts that encouraged him to enter politics. Four months after the photograph was taken, Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas.

GETTY IMAGES

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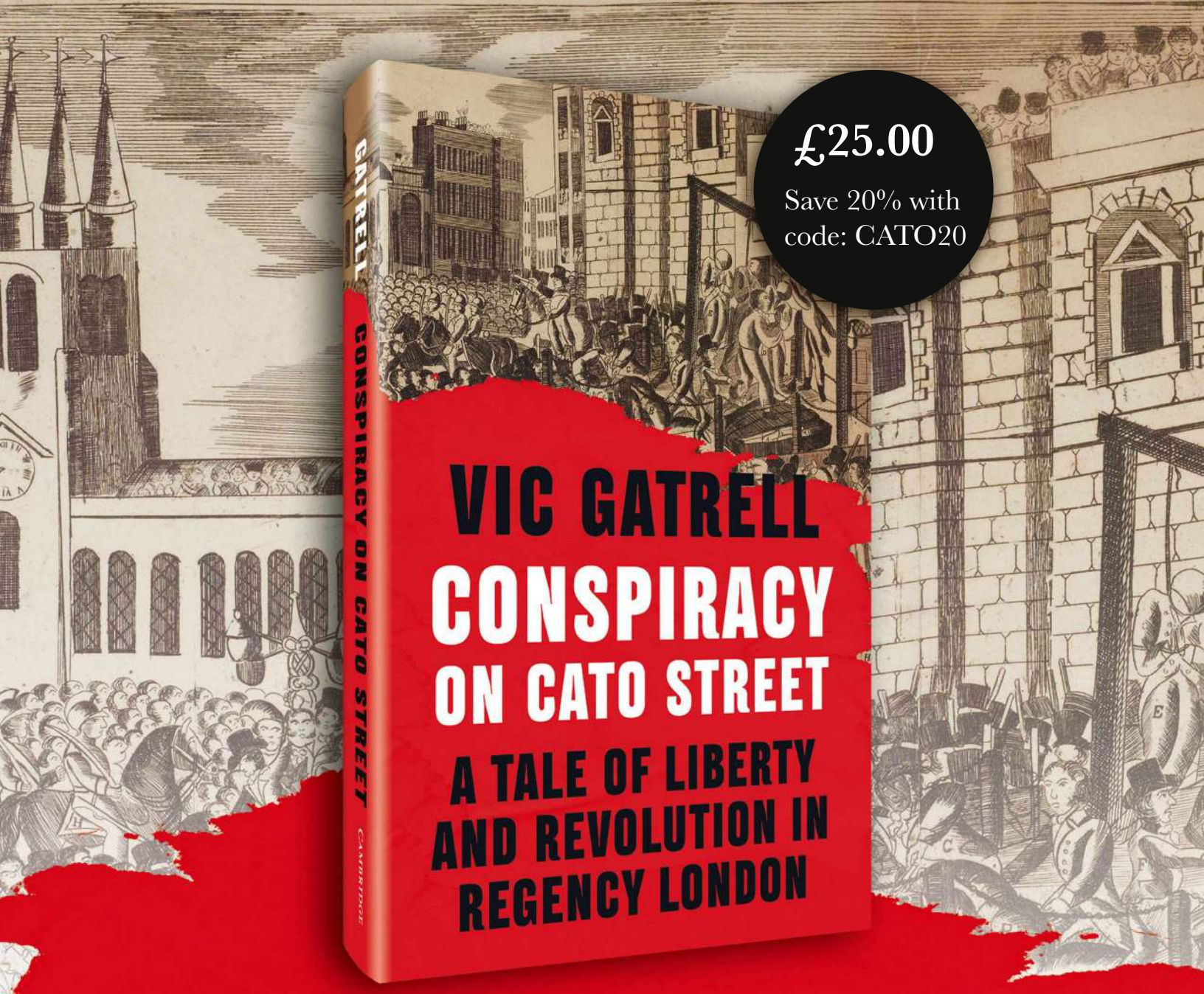

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